

Art Integration: Exploring a Transdisciplinary Practice in Rural Art Education

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IRB STUDY 00002046

Purpose: This study aims to investigate how high school aged students explore and connect diverse academic disciplines through art. Specific attention is paid to how these connections are influenced by personal interests, lived experiences, and the local culture and geographic surroundings. Using art educator and curriculum theorist Julia Marshall's (2014) art integrative transdisciplinary approach of Art Research Integration, I will explore the process students undergo while creating art and their final art piece associated with student decision making in an art classroom pertaining to academic discipline interconnectivity and how a place-based thematic question influences process and product choices.

Procedure: Each day the classroom teacher and I will work together to help students learn more about their interests, lived experience reflections, and examining the local culture and geography. Each student participant will get a research art journal to document their experience. This journal is the home for their research ideas and ways they are going to visually express their artwork. Once the student researches and sketches their idea, they will begin creating a representation (artwork) to express understanding.

Duration: Two 9-week grading periods (semester)

Risks: This study does not pose any known physical or mental risks to participants.

Benefits of the research:

- Promotes cognition across disciplines to solve problems and answer questions
- Develop new skills associated with fine art
- Developing new interests and experiences through the artmaking process
- Building positive attitudes about school and the education system
- Building positive attitudes toward diverse academic knowledge
- Learning about the local area and building respect for the culture and geography or the area

Confidentiality:

One of my main goals remains to protect the individuals who take part in this study. Anonymity of the participants is of the utmost importance. Pseudonyms will be used for all participants. Collected data will only be used for education purposes (e.g. conferences/presentations).

Halting participation:

I may halt your participation if do not follow the Warren County School District rules or art room safety rules.

Stopping participation:

Participation is voluntary in this study. If you would like to withdraw from the study at any time, you may do so by verbalizing consent or in written form directly to me. It is your decision if you would like all previously collected data to be withdrawn from the study as well. Additionally, participants must also follow the Warren County School District and building rules, along with all safety precautions given by the teacher and myself.

How many participants in the study: 15-20 students; 5 teachers