

How Artists Create Elementary (PreK-5th Grade)

“How Artists Create” helps students dive deeper into artists’ choices and techniques. The program focuses on the elements of art: line, color, shape, texture, form, space, and value. Museum educators guide students through Artful Thinking Routines and activities from Harvard’s Project Zero. Activities include “line yoga,” investigating the emotions evoked by different colors, and more! Discussions center on the artists’ choices and how those choices create meaning.

Essential Question:

How do artists use the elements of art to create meaning?

Learning Targets:

1. Students identify at least three elements of art in a work of art in the galleries and in a self-created work of art.
2. Students consider why an artist made choices related to the elements of art.

Success Criteria:

- Students can name at least three elements of art.
- Students can point to and name three elements of art in works of art from TAM’s collection.
- Students can explain why an artist may have made a certain choice about an element of art (e.g. why the artist chose a certain color, why the artist chose to use a certain type of line, etc.).

Standards Alignment

Washington State Visual Arts

Kindergarten

- Re8.1.K(a) Interpret art by identifying subject matter and describing relevant details
- Cn11.1.K(a) Identify a purpose of an artwork

1st Grade

- Re8.1.1(a) Interpret art by . . . identifying the characteristics of form.

2nd Grade

- Re8.1.2(a) Interpret art by . . . describing relevant subject matter and characteristics of form

3rd Grade

- Re8.1.3(a) Interpret art by analyzing use of media to create subject matter, characteristics of form, and mood

4th Grade

- Re7.2.4(a) Analyze components in visual imagery that convey messages
- Re8.1.4(a) Interpret art by . . . analyzing relevant subject matter, characteristics of form, and use of media

5th Grade

- Re7.1.5(a) Compare one's own interpretation of a work of art with the interpretation of others
- Re8.1.5(a) Interpret art by analyzing characteristics of form and structure, contextual information, subject matter, visual elements, and use of media to identify ideas and mood conveyed