

Art History Tour

ART & MUSIC



Book Builder

Overview

Students curate a small exhibition in book form, practising close looking and describing what they see before what they think.

Steps for Teachers

1. Introduce a period, movement or artist as a class
2. Each student selects four works that belong together for a reason they can name
3. Students look at each work for a full two minutes before writing anything
4. Students write down only what they can SEE first: colour, shape, composition, subject
5. Students then research the work's date, maker and context
6. Students plan one page per work: the image, what to look at, and what it meant at the time
7. Students write an opening page naming the thread that ties their four choices together
8. Students walk a partner through their exhibition in order

Example

A student curates four paintings of ordinary rooms across three centuries. The opening page reads: 'These four artists all painted a room nobody important was in.' Each page points out where the light comes from before saying anything about the painter.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Close Looking	Descriptions are detailed and observational before interpretive	Some observation, but interpretation arrives early	The student writes opinions without describing the work
Curatorial Thread	The four works genuinely belong together and the reason is well argued	The connection is stated but loose	The works are unrelated
Context Accuracy	Dates, makers and context are correct	Mostly correct with a minor error	Attribution or context is wrong
Book Craft	Text is easy to read, art supports every page, and the layout is consistent throughout	Pages are readable with some crowding or uneven placement	Text overlaps art or is hard to read; layout is inconsistent