

Essential Skills

These basic skills are essential to a student's success. Using this strategy of practicing skills in connection with a work of art, teachers can excite and inspire students in ways that will add up over time, in learning about art and about other curricular areas.

Observation – perception, noticing, critical viewing, critical listening, noticing details, remembering

Description – naming, describing, descriptive language, describing details, fluency with images

Inquiry – engagement, wondering, asking questions, speculating, looking for information

Analysis – notice parts and their relationship to the whole, discriminate, pick out the main idea and basic facts in a text, identify supporting details, contrast, identify patterns, relationships and sequences, beginning / middle / end, recognize creativity and original ideas

Interpretation and Inference – making meaning, comprehension, understanding, recognition of theme, understanding metaphors and symbolism, recognize and understand sub-text, discriminate between fiction and fact, ability to sort relevant from irrelevant information, interpretation of data, making inferences

Contextualization – notice similarities and differences, place in a larger context, sort into categories, compare and contrast, recognize different and various perspectives, graphing differences or progressions, media literacy and judging sources, awareness of scale and ratio, cultural context

Opinion / Hypothesis – evaluating, making predictions based on data, providing evidence, forming, articulating and expressing an opinion, personal response, recognizing and appreciating good work and good ideas, correcting misinformation

Research – finding and using information, investigating a variety of sources

Expression – communicating meaning, finding one's voice, writing expressively, using metaphors, symbolism, and imagery, paragraph writing, vivid language, oral presentation skills, speaking expressively, increasing vocabulary, participating in a discussion, taking a stand

Synthesis – create something new, translation, transformation, imagination, creativity, transfer ideas to another media or domain, synthesize information from a variety of sources, ability to represent something in a number of ways

Writing – all forms of written communication: expository, descriptive, monologues, dialogues, persuasive writing, letters, poetry, short stories

Calculating (Mathematical) – adding, subtracting, multiplication, division, percentages, ratios, geometric calculations, algebraic calculations