

LEARNING THROUGH ART INQUIRY CHECKLIST

IN YOUR INQUIRY, MAKE SURE YOU...

- Ask questions that do not demand a particular answer, elicit a yes/no answer, or contain answers in them.
- Solicit several responses to each question through (1) wait time and (2) follow-up questions (i.e. Does anyone have something to add? Do others agree/disagree?). Respond positively to a wide range of responses.
- Spend a significant amount of time at the beginning of the discussion eliciting observations and asking for details about the artwork.
- Ask students to back up their interpretations or assertions with evidence from the artwork.
- Determine a theme or teaching objective for your inquiry and select a work or works that support that theme or objective. Ask a limited number of focused questions that lead students toward consideration of that theme or objective.
- Integrate factual information about the work when relevant and available. Know the subject well enough to answer questions when they are asked but feel comfortable saying “I don’t know” to a request for facts.

YOU MIGHT ALSO WANT TO...

- Call up students’ prior knowledge and experiences and ask them to make connections between these ideas and the artwork. Inquire about students’ feelings regarding the artwork.
- Design activities and questions for a variety of learning styles - including activities such as writing, drawing, performance, or pair/small group work, or questions that incorporate other sensory modes (such as, “What does this painting sound like?”).
- Check for understanding during and/or at the end of the inquiry session. Ask students to summarize what they’ve learned, reflect in writing or verbally, or answer questions that will reveal comprehension.

