

Title: Contour Drawing

Subject Area: Art/Creative Writing

Grade Level: 1st - 3rd Grade

Materials:

oil pastels
pieces of wool string
colored construction paper
Elmer's glue

NYS Standards:

1. Students will create a contour line drawing using a piece of wool string and complete it with all pastels.
2. Students will use and manipulate oil pastels in a variety of ways.
3. Students will be able to imagine and create a story based on their contour drawing, as well as analyze other students' images noting the contour line around the objects and listen to their stories.
4. Students will gain a further knowledge of creative writing skills by creating a story based on an image created by the contour line.

Motivation:

Begin by telling the students a story about how you got to work this morning. Explain your daily routine such as I brushed my teeth, I picked an outfit to wear, I put on my shoes, I buttoned my coat, etc.,. Ask the students what they usually do in their morning routine and incorporate it into the story (since most of their routine will be similar to your own). Then continue with the story stating that you left the house, opened the car door, put on the seat belt, and started the engine to the car. But before you were about to drive away a magic line popped out of your pocketbook. Show the students the piece of wool string at this point and continue with the story saying how the magic line danced around the car and formed a line over the steering wheel and then became the steering wheel. Be sure to follow with the motions forming the string to look like a steering wheel. Have the students pick objects in the room where they see the magic line and have the students trace it on the object.

Procedure:

1. Have students gather around at one table
2. Begin to tell students the story of how you got to work today as the motivation for this project. Use the motivation for this step.

3. Explain to the students that they are going to each get their own magic line and that they are going to create an image based on that line, followed by a short story about the image created.
4. Demonstrate to the students various ways they can manipulate the string on the paper. Be sure to let them know to let the magic line be loose and dance around on the paper not making any specific shape or object.
5. Introduce and demonstrate to the students how to manipulate the oil pastels in various ways.
6. Ask the students if they have any questions thus far or do not fully understand the assignment.
7. Have students then choose the color string they want and the color construction paper they want.
8. Hand out glue and oil pastels.
9. Once students are finished creating the image have them write a 5 sentence story on the back of the construction paper based on the contour image they drew.
10. When students complete the assignment hang them up so students can analyze each others work. Have the students pick out the 'magic line' in each image.
11. Give the students the new vocabulary word 'Contour Line' and explain that contour line is the magic line around an object.
12. Before the students leave the art room ask them "What is a contour line?" and then proceed to have the students trace a contour line on an object they have on them or near them for closure to the project.

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be based on participation with all steps of the project, the effort put into all aspects of the project, completion of the contour drawing and short story, and the ability to assess their own works, their peers' work and understand the term contour line.