Unit 2: Review Composition

Content Area: **Fine Arts**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **5-6 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Brief Summary of Unit

Unit 2: Review Composition

This unit will focus on reviewing and deepening students' understanding of photographic composition. Students will revisit key compositional elements and principles to improve the effectiveness of their images. By exploring concepts like the rule of thirds, leading lines, framing, symmetry, and the use of negative space, students will refine their technical and creative abilities to compose visually compelling photographs. The unit will encourage critical analysis of images, self-reflection, and peer feedback.

Revision Date: July 2025 - Samantha Berk

Standards

ELD standards:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wdmsiGOdCHlrjU-WPvAtENnEgi0EStZXo0uiFYv1Nu4/edit

1.5.12acc.Cr1a	Individually and collaboratively formulate new creative problems based on student's existing artwork.
1.5.12acc.Cr1b	Choose from a range of materials and methods of traditional and contemporary artistic practices to plan works of art and design.
1.5.12acc.Cr2a	Through experimentation, practice and persistence, demonstrate acquisition of skills and knowledge in a chosen art form.
1.5.12acc.Cr2b	Demonstrate awareness of ethical implications of making and distributing creative work.
1.5.12acc.Cr2c	Redesign an object, system, place, or design in response to contemporary issues.
1.5.12acc.Cr3a	Engage in constructive critique with peers, then reflect on, re-engage, revise, and refine works of art and design in response to personal artistic vision.
1.5.12acc.Pr4a	Analyze, select and critique personal artwork for a collection or portfolio presentation.
1.5.12acc.Pr5a	Evaluate, select and apply methods or processes appropriate to display artwork in a specific place.
1.5.12acc.Pr6a	Make, explain and justify connections between artists or artwork and social, cultural and political history.
1.5.12acc.Re7a	Recognize and describe personal aesthetic and empathetic responses to the natural world and constructed environments.
1.5.12acc.Re7b	Evaluate the effectiveness of visual artworks to influence ideas, feelings, and behaviors of specific audiences.
1.5.12acc.Re8a	Identify types of contextual information useful in the process of constructing

	interpretations of an artwork or collection of works.
1.5.12acc.Re9a	Determine the relevance of criteria used by others to evaluate a work of art or collection of works.
1.5.12acc.Cn10a	Utilize inquiry methods of observation, research and experimentation to explore other subjects through artmaking.
1.5.12acc.Cn11a	Compare uses of art in a variety of societal, cultural and historical contexts and make connections to uses of art in contemporary and local contexts.
1.5.12acc.Cn11b	Compare uses of art in a variety of societal, cultural and historical contexts and make connections to global issues, including climate change.

Essential Questions

- How do compositional techniques influence the way an image is perceived by an audience?
- In what ways can the rule of thirds and other compositional principles enhance the storytelling aspect of photography?
- How can a photographer use composition to evoke specific emotions or reactions in their viewers?
- What role does experimentation with composition play in developing a unique photographic style?

Essential Understandings

- Composition is the fundamental tool that elevates the meaning and emotional impact of a photograph.
- Understanding compositional techniques allows photographers to visually communicate their intended message or narrative more effectively.
- The relationship between the subject, environment, and visual elements determines the quality of an image.

Students Will Know

- The core compositional techniques, including the rule of thirds, leading lines, framing, symmetry, and negative space.
- How to identify and apply various compositional principles in their own work.
- How to critique their own and others' photographs based on compositional elements.
- The importance of adjusting compositional elements to improve the aesthetic and narrative impact of an image.

Learning Plan

- Preview and discuss the essential questions as a class.
- Review key photography composition techniques through teacher-led presentations and visual examples:
    - Rule of Thirds
    - Leading Lines
    - Framing
    - Symmetry and Balance
    - Depth and Layering
    - Perspective/Point of View
- Group discussions to analyze professional photographs that exemplify these techniques.
- Quick formative quiz or interactive game (e.g., Kahoot or visual ID challenge) to reinforce terminology and concepts.
- Students complete a series of photography-based exercises designed to isolate and practice each composition technique.
- Stations or prompts set up around the school/room to allow students to explore different approaches to composition.
    - Example exercises: "Find symmetry in architecture," "Use natural framing with foliage," or "Create a dynamic leading line using shadows."
- Students upload and organize their best 2–3 shots per technique into a digital folder or shared class platform.
- Begin peer critiques: small-group feedback sessions focusing on identifying and discussing compositional strategies used.
- Students form small groups to plan and execute a collaborative photo shoot focusing on at least three different compositional techniques.
- Simultaneously, students work independently to create a personal mini-series (3–5 photos) that explore a specific theme using strong compositional elements.

Suggested Activities:

Interactive Review & Terminology Reinforcement

- Group discussion analyzing professional photographs that demonstrate composition techniques.
- Quick formative quiz or interactive game (e.g., Kahoot or visual ID challenge) to reinforce terms and concepts.

Composition Practice Stations

- Students rotate through stations/prompts around the school or classroom designed to isolate and practice specific composition techniques (e.g., find symmetry in architecture, use natural framing, create leading lines with shadows).
- Students capture photos and upload their best 2–3 shots per technique to a shared digital platform.

Peer Critique and Collaborative Planning

- Small-group peer critiques focusing on identifying and discussing compositional strategies in student photos.
- Groups plan and prepare a collaborative photo shoot incorporating at least three different composition techniques.

Execution of Collaborative & Personal Projects

- Students complete their group photo shoots applying planned compositional strategies.
- Independently, students develop a personal mini-series (3–5 photos) exploring a theme with strong compositional elements, preparing work for presentation and reflection.

Evidence/Performance Tasks

Fine Arts students demonstrate differentiated proficiency according to their ability to answer the essential questions through formative and summative assessments. Evidence of progression may be demonstrated in divergent ways through the Artistic Process of Creating, Presenting/Producing, Connecting, and Responding.

Tasks will include:

- Preview/Answer essential questions
- Meaningfully and appropriately participate in class critique and discussions
- Complete class projects including weekly critique assignments
- Complete self-assessment rubrics
- Participate in assessment discussions with teacher
- Complete final exam

Materials

The materials used in this course allow for integration of a variety of instructional, supplemental, and intervention materials that support student learners at all levels in the school and home environments. Associated web content and media sources are infused into the unit as applicable and available.

Digital Cameras, Sketchbook, Various Pencils, Sharpies, Markers, Various Papers, Various Erasers, Mirrors, Blending Sticks, Charcoal, Graphite, Sharpeners, Colored Pencils, Oil Pastel, Chalk Pastels, YouTube Videos, Value Scales, magazines, glue, scissors, Watercolor, Watercolor paper, paint brush, ink, printing materials, chromebooks, ipads, Paint, Color Wheels, Drawing Pen, Rulers

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

Suggested Strategies for Modifications:

This link includes content specific accommodations and modifications for all populations:

Fine Arts Accommodations & Modifications

- Auditory re-phrasing to assist students.
- Group critique of work in progress and completed exercises.
- Hands on activities to support unit objectives.
- Individualized instruction where needed.
- Mini lessons in addition to large group instruction.
- Use of document camera and projector.
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- Use of rubric as self-evaluation tool.
- Use of Visual Aids such as photographs, and presentation tools.
- Videos to enhance instruction.
- Working in small groups.
- Written outline of procedure as guideline.