

Appendix: Implementing Common Core Standards

This unit supports the North Carolina Essential Standards for Visual Art in its three overarching stands, Visual Literacy, Contextual Relevancy, and Critical Response. This unit is appropriate for teaching in a Visual Art, Beginning (Art I) course or year 4 of International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program for Visual Arts. North Carolina defines visual art as an elective in a technical subject.

Through this unit teachers and students will grow their understandings of the lived cultures and journeys of the individuals in the learning environment. A working knowledge of the relationship between image and idea is essential to rigorous engagements in the classroom. As teachers facilitate learning goals for their students this unit presents opportunities for both collaborative and independent investigations that provide students with literacy skills to use across disciplines and beyond the classroom.

The Visual Literacy strand emphasizes the use of the language of visual arts to communicate effectively, applying creative and critical thinking skills to artistic expression. At the beginning level students create personal, symbolic expression as a means of communication using a variety of media, including 2-D, 3-D, and digital, to produce art. Contextual Relevancy refers to understanding the global, historical, societal, and cultural contexts of the visual arts. The focus is on understanding how art is used to document human experience. Students learn to interpret art in terms of cultural and ethnic context and to understand the interdisciplinary connections and life applications of the visual arts. Critical Response refers to the use of critical analysis to react, either in writing, verbally, through art, or through other modalities to art. Critical Response requires the use of skills such as observing, describing, analyzing, interpreting, critiquing, judging, and evaluating personal art and the art of others. At the beginning level, students use critical analysis to generate responses to a variety of prompts.

This unit also addresses also addresses grade 9-10 Common Core Standards for English Language Arts in Reading and Writing. Through class activities students will determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, how the language evokes a sense of time and place. Students will write narratives through prose or poetry to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.