

EXPRESSING VALUES THROUGH DESIGN

GRADE: 3-12

TIME: One 60-minute session

Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple evokes unity, truth, beauty, freedom, and reason with simple, geometric forms. In this lesson, students will identify a set of classroom values and will individually work to express one shared value in the design of a three-dimensional form.

INTEGRATED SUBJECTS: Visual Arts, Social Studies

OBJECTIVES

MATERIALS | RESOURCES

Paper
Pencils
Crayons or colored pencils
Images of Unity Temple (exterior, interior, and floorplan)
Audio clips (from a variety of songs)
Tape or glue
Scissors
Cardstock (various colors)
Model Magic modeling clay (optional)

1. Develop a classroom set of values and individually reflect on a shared value through art making or journaling.
2. Understand how Frank Lloyd Wright represented abstract ideas (such as unity) in his building designs.
3. Understand how design elements can be used to represent abstract ideas, sounds, and feelings.
4. Represent a classroom value through the design of a unique work of art.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. How does the built environment express societal values?
2. What values do I hold?
3. What values do I share with my classmates?
4. How can I best express what is important to me or to others?
5. How can design elements like line, color, and form be used to express abstract ideas?

LESSON PROCEDURE

ENGAGE

- Play a sample of a recorded song and ask students to pay attention to how the music makes them feel.
- Ask students to meditatively draw the song as they listen, focusing on the song as a line of color. Ask students: What color would the song be? What would the line look like? Repeat the exercise with a variety of songs that evoke a variety of feelings or moods.
- Have students compare and contrast drawings. Ask students: What do you notice? How were line and color used differently for each song? Do you and your classmates have similar drawings for each song?

EXPLORE

- Introduce Frank Lloyd Wright and his use of simple geometric forms. Ask: How does Frank Lloyd Wright use line and color? How do these design choices impact the way you feel when looking at or experiencing his buildings?
- Introduce students to Unity Temple, a sacred building designed to represent the concepts of unity and freedom.
- As students study photographs of the building's interior/ exterior and floorplan, ask: How are unity and freedom expressed in this design? Focus on line, color, and form.
- Compare and contrast with the Statue of Liberty, which symbolizes liberty, freedom, and democracy. Ask: How is the value of freedom expressed differently? Focus on design elements and use of representational forms.

ENGAGE

- Ask students to collaboratively produce a set of values for the classroom. (Examples could include: hospitality, respect, creativity, etc.)
- Have students each choose one shared value to explore further and define in any mode of expression that works best for them. (This could include journaling, collage, sketching, memory mapping, etc.)

DESIGN

- Challenge students to imagine their value as a line of color and draw a few possibilities.
- Have students use their sketches to imagine their value as a three-dimensional form, such as a sculpture or a building. Students should draw a few possibilities and pick one for further revision. Challenge students to use simple shapes.
- Using Model Magic modeling clay or model making materials such as paper, scissors, and glue or tape, have students design and construct the form.

CRITIQUE & INTERPRET

- Allow time for students to share their designs and communicate how the chosen value is expressed.