

Nick Campellone
Lesson Plan on “Christ Healing the Sick”
Pennsylvania Hospital

Lesson Title: Reform of Art by Benjamin West Donating, “Christ Healing the Sick”

Standards: 8.1.11 C Analyze the fundamentals of historical interpretation,

8.1.12 A, Evaluate chronological thinking

8.2.9 A, Analyze the political and cultural contributions of individuals and groups to Pennsylvania history from 1787 to 1914.

8.2.9 C, Identify and analyze how continuity and change have influenced Pennsylvania history from the 1787 to 1914.

The lesson is discussing the acquisition of a piece from Benjamin West to the Pennsylvania Hospital and these standards have been picked because of the time period of the donation was to the Pennsylvania Hospital. The piece was acquired in 1800’s, which meets the standard because it is in the time between 1787 and 1914.

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

Standards met in this lesson:

Culture, Individuals Groups and Institutions, Civil Ideals and Practices.

Questions from these Strand could be as followed.

Students should recognize and interpret how the “common good” can be strengthened through various forms of citizen action.

Students will describe ways in which language, stories, folktales, music, and artistic creations serve as expressions of culture and influence behavior of people living in a particular culture.

Students should be able to identify examples of institutions and describe the interactions of people with institutions;

Grade Level or Target Audience: High School students – Grades 9-12

Lesson Objectives: Students will discuss the differences between Art in contemporary society and Art during the late 18th century and early 19th Century. Students will expand their knowledge about the revolutionary ideas and reforms using Benjamin West's donation of the painting "Christ Healing the Sick" to the Pennsylvania Hospital. Students will understand the shift in access to and created by West's donation to the Hospital. Students will explore murals in Philadelphia and show how they are changing the culture today. Students will communicate how contemporary murals relate to Benjamin West and "Christ Healing the Sick".

Anticipatory Set: The teacher will show famous Art exhibits that are open to the public including famous works by artists such as Salvador Dali, Vincent Van Gough, Leonardo Di Vinci, and Claude Monet. The teacher will explain how we are able to see these paintings today because of the democratization of art. The teacher will use the timeline to outline the important milestones of the donation to the Pennsylvania Hospital.

Materials Needed: Computer, Pictures of "Christ Healing the Sick" and related images found at <http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/paharc/history-month/painting/index.html>

Organization of the Lesson: The teacher will demonstrate the history of Art during the end of the 18th century and early 19th century. The teacher will show the culture of Art during this time period. The teacher will have a timeline that outlines the whole process of Benjamin West's donation of "Christ Healing the Sick" to the Pennsylvania Hospital. Students will examine primary sources from the correspondence collection and examine the whole process that went into the donation.

For images related to this lesson, please visit:

<http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/paharc/history-month/painting/index.html>

The teacher will hand out packets of murals for students to look through about Art today and how these public works relate to Benjamin West and his donation to the hospital. Students will then pick a public works project or Mural and write a paper on the importance of their piece to the community and how it relates to the donation by Benjamin West. Students will present their mural and discuss its similarity to Benjamin West's donation to Pennsylvania Hospital.

Connections: The teacher will integrate this lesson with their Art classes and use pieces they have studied in class. The teacher will show how pieces we look at today in Art Museums today are related to Benjamin West and his donation allowing the public to be cultured by viewing Art, a revolutionary concept in the early 19th c.

Meeting Individual Needs: For students that have some learning disabilities the teacher could print out slides and hand them to the students so they can take notes as they are following the slides. The teacher is doing this so they do not have to try to write everything down they can just write down important ideas he/she emphasizes in the lecture part of class. Students will also be able to use computers to write their papers on the mural they picked. This is important for students with special needs because not every student will be able to handwrite their papers and this will help them finish the assignment on time.

Checking for Understanding:

The students will be able to understand that Benjamin West's donation to Pennsylvania Hospital changed the culture of Art during the early 19th century. By him donating the piece he is shifting the mindset of painters and art collectors to the idea of culture for the masses instead of just

building massive art collections for only the wealthy to examine. To summarize the lesson, Benjamin West donated “Christ Healing the Sick” to Pennsylvania Hospital and with his donation to the Hospital he showed that he was interested in trying to culture the masses instead of just selling his artwork to another Art collector. A teacher can see if the students understand the message by their papers they are going to write and how it relates to the donation by Benjamin West. Students should be able to identify the key individuals involved with the donation beyond Benjamin West.

Independent Practice: Students will finish their papers on their mural and be prepared to explain why and how it relates to the donation by Benjamin West. Homework: come in with a five minute speech on your mural and to find a place that shows other works of Art on display to the public. Examine how that institution came into existence and discuss the impact of public Art.

Art Examples to use:



Salvador Dali- The Persistence of Memory



The Starry Night by Vincent Van Gough



Christ Healing the Sick by Benjamin West



Leonardo Di Vinci- Mona Lisa



Claude Monet – Sunrise

Links to Public Murals in Philadelphia: <http://muralarts.org/>

Article on public murals in Washington D.C.:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/14/AR2010011401650.html>

Community-based public art is a familiar and well documented field. Like community-based theater, community-based public art seeks to develop meaningful and high quality works through a collaborative process driven by local people often with the guidance and technical assistance of professional artists.

<http://www.maaa.org/SiteResources/Data/Templates/t3.asp?docid=727&DocName=Mural%20Project>