

French Art and Poetry Lesson Plan



Overview:

How will a collaborative free-form art project engage our creative writing skills?

After a tour of the museum, students will further explore artistic creation in both the visual arts, by creating group collage projects, and the language arts, by composing Cinquain-styled poetry. This activity is recommended for students in grades 6-12 and is particularly well-suited for French students and students with varying levels of artistic skill.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Recognize two iconic themes in the works by French artist Edgar Degas: ballet dancers and the race track.
- Work collaboratively on a group art project, strategizing about theme, media, and individual student contribution to the finished work.
- Explore the elements of art (texture, color, line and form) as they choose compositional materials for their collages.
- Think critically about their compositions, using this analysis to inspire their Cinquain-styled poetry, which may be composed using French vocabulary.
- Present their finished collages and poetry to peers, discussing decisions regarding the design and implementation of their projects.

Featured Artwork:

Jockeys, 1886, and *Dancers in Pink*, ca. 1876, by Edgar Degas

Materials:

For collage: Large paper roll, templates with outline of ballet dancer and jockey on horse, pastels, markers, tissue paper, scissors, construction paper, glue sticks, string, feathers, sequins, tacky glue. For poetry: Cinquain Poetry worksheet, pencils.

Lesson Steps:

1. Students will be divided into groups of 3-6 students and seated at large tables with dancer or jockey outline on paper, and collage materials.
2. Remind the students about the paintings *Jockeys* and *Dancers in Pink* from the museum collection, soliciting discussion about compositional elements.
3. Explain that the lesson plan activities are intended to engage students' creative energy in a tactile way that will assist in their constructing thoughtful poetry related to their visual arts creations.
4. Direct students to discuss the game plan for the project, considering overall design, and if they should work on sections individually or assign each student to work with a particular media. Most importantly, explain that all students will be allowed to discuss thoughtful ideas and get positive and respectful feedback from peers. Students should not erase or "work over" any other students work.
5. Student groups compose their collage creations. (20-25 minutes).
6. Distribute Cinquain-poetry writing worksheets
7. Students in each group will, either individually, or paired up, develop a list of words that describe the composition and arrange them into cinquain verses, as directed by the worksheets.
8. Students come together as a class to present their art and poetry compositions to their peers. Students are directed to comment on what makes each project successful.

French Poetry and Art Group Collage-Inspired Cinquain

Cinquain Poetry: A short poem consisting of five, usually unrhymed, lines.

Write a cinquain about your group collage. Structure it as follows:

- Line 1: A noun
- Line 2: Two adjectives which describe the noun.
- Line 3: Three verbs which describe the noun.
- Line 4: A short phrase about the noun.
- Line 5: Repeat noun in Line 1.

Sample:

Jockey
Colorful, Tall
Riding, Galloping, Racing
Partner with the horse
Jockey

My poem:

A noun

Two adjectives about the noun

Three verbs about the noun

A short phrase about the noun

Repeat the noun

By: _____