

La Trobe Art Institute – Collaborative Artwork Activity

Year level: Upper Primary & High School

Learning intention

We are learning about how to collaborate with someone by taking turns to produce an artwork.

Success Criteria

- I can collaborate with someone else to produce an artwork
- I can use good communication skills with my partner
- I can discuss ways to effectively collaborate

Resources

- Red, yellow, blue and white paint
- Paintbrushes
- Art paper
- ICT (for catch video)
- Timer (for 2 mins each round per student)

Catch

1) Watch the [La Trobe Art Institute 'Think Art Think Collaboration'](#) video.

2) Discuss the meaning of collaboration. Then discuss the process of working collaboratively to make art (taking turns, adding ideas, do you talk or not talk while making the art? Were both people happy with their end product?)

Discussion points could include:

- What are the logistics? How do we need to work together?
- Did both artists like their art every time? (How do you think they handled that as they went?)
- What are some things that might help us collaborate well together?
- What might make this difficult?

Act

Students to work in pairs to create their first collaboration.

First, students can follow instructions via the examples below.

Follow the directions of the LAI example (1, 2 or both), give students the following instructions (art creation should take around 12-15 mins (not including set up and pack up time) and it might be best to use a timer to keep students on track:

Process (example 1)

Student 1: Use primary colours (red, blue, yellow) and work for 2 minutes on their painting (of whatever they like!)

Student 2: Introduces white (can still use the primary colours as well) and paint for 2 minutes

Student 1: Blend and mix into parts of the wet paint

Student 2: Paint with lines over the top

Student 1: Add some shapes

Student 2: What else does the painting need? Add the finishing touches.

Process (example 2)

Student 1: Choose one shape and one colour, paint for 2 mins

Student 2: Choose a different shape and colour, paint for 2 mins

Student 1: Add more of your coloured shape, paint for 2 mins

Student 2: Add more of your colour and shape, paint for 2 mins

Student 1: Add a new colour or shape, paint for 2 mins

Student 2: Add a new colour or shape, paint for 2 mins

Then, if time allows, students could work in pairs to collaborate to create an artwork on their own with no instructions (apart from what they discuss together). Set a timer for 8-10 minutes for them to create their work.

Presentation & Reflection

In a circle, students can show their work and discuss as pairs and as a group what they enjoyed and what they found challenging about this activity.

Reflection discussion prompts could include:

- How did you work with your partner?
- Do you think you'll always be happy with the end result when you work with someone else? Why/why not?
- How can we talk to each other to make sure we can complete our collaborative work?
- How did you work differently when there were instructions to when there were no instructions? (if both methods were used)
- What worked well and what didn't work? How can we improve our collaboration?
- Real world examples - In a workplace do you think people work by themselves, or collaborate? What jobs might people collaborate in? (e.g. graphic design, book authors and editors, chefs, office workers etc.)