



Preparing for Art School: Detailed 5-Day Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 11th Grade

Subject: Visual Arts and Career Preparation

Objective:

Students will deeply self-reflect to define their artistic identity and goals, thoroughly research and evaluate art school programs that align with their aspirations, create compelling application materials, and prepare for interviews and art school life.

Materials:

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Paper, pencils, and art supplies for portfolio work
- Journals for reflective writing
- Handouts with detailed guidelines on portfolio building, artist statement writing, and interview preparation
- Projector and screen for presentations and video examples

Lesson Duration: Five 60-minute class sessions.

Detailed Weekly Plan:

Day 1: Self-Assessment and Goal Setting

Objective: Enable students to articulate their artistic interests, style, career goals, and priorities for choosing an art school.

Materials for Day 1:

- Journals or notebooks for reflective writing
- Handouts with reflective questions
- Projector and screen for motivational talks and art career videos

Instructions and Script for Day 1:

Introduction (10 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Welcome to the first day of our journey to art school preparation. Understanding who you are as an artist and what you aim to achieve is foundational in selecting the right school for you."

Motivational Talk (10 minutes):

- Presentation: Show a video of a successful artist discussing their journey and the importance of knowing one's artistic and career aspirations.
- Discuss: "How does this artist's journey resonate with your own aspirations?"

Reflective Writing Activity (25 minutes):

- Instructions: "Spend the next 25 minutes answering these detailed questions in your journal:
 - What are the key themes or mediums you are passionate about in art?
 - How would you describe your art style? What influences this style?
 - What do you expect to achieve by attending art school?
 - Where do you see yourself in the art industry in the next 10 years?
 - List at least three critical factors you are looking for in an art school (e.g., faculty expertise, facilities, community engagement, geographical location)."
- Materials: Provide journals and pens.
- Guidance: Encourage thorough and thoughtful responses, prompting students to consider both practical and aspirational aspects.



Goal Setting Workshop (10 minutes):

- Instructions: "Based on your reflections, set specific short-term and long-term goals related to your art and education."
- Discuss: "Share your goals with a partner and discuss how these goals might influence your choice of an art school."

Wrap-Up (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Reflecting on these questions helps lay a solid foundation for your art school journey. For tomorrow, think about how these goals align with potential art schools."

Day 2: Researching Art Programs

Objective: Guide students through a detailed research process to find art schools that align with their defined artistic goals and needs.

Materials for Day 2:

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Projector and screen for demonstrating research techniques
- Handouts with detailed criteria and questions for evaluating art programs

Instructions and Script for Day 2:

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Using the goals we set yesterday, today we'll identify art schools that can help you achieve these aspirations. We'll focus on specific criteria that match your artistic and educational needs."

Presentation on Effective Research Strategies (10 minutes):

- Discuss: How to use online resources to gather detailed information about art programs, including faculty qualifications, specialization options, student reviews, and alumni careers.
- Visual Aid: Demonstrate live searches and evaluate the information found against students' goals.

Hands-On Research Activity (30 minutes):

- Task: Students research three art schools using a comprehensive list of questions such as:
 - "What specialized programs are available that align with your artistic goals?"
 - "What are the qualifications of the faculty in your interested field?"
 - "How do the facilities and resources support your preferred medium?"
 - "What are the career services and alumni networks like? Do they align with where you envision your career path?"
- Materials: Provide access to reliable educational websites, school portals, and review platforms.
- Guidance: Help students critically analyze each program's offerings against their personal and professional goals.

Group Discussion (10 minutes):

- Instructions: "Discuss with your peers the findings from your research. Highlight any schools that particularly match your criteria and why."
- Teacher Script: "Sharing your findings can provide new perspectives and help refine your choices."

Wrap-Up (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Your research today is crucial for making informed decisions about which art schools to apply to. Keep your notes for tomorrow's session on building your portfolios."

Day 3: Building a Strong Portfolio

Objective: Assist students in assembling a portfolio that reflects their best work and aligns with the entry requirements of their chosen art schools.

Materials for Day 3:

- Art supplies for portfolio development
- Examples of successful portfolios
- Handouts detailing portfolio requirements from students' chosen schools

Instructions and Script for Day 3:

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Today is about creating a portfolio that not only showcases your skills but also aligns with the specific requirements of your chosen art schools. This is your chance to make a strong visual statement about your capabilities."

Review Portfolio Requirements (10 minutes):

- Presentation: Explain common portfolio requirements and show examples from different art schools that align with students' interests.
- Discuss: "What types of works (media, themes, techniques) are schools looking for? How can you meet these expectations while staying true to your artistic voice?"

Portfolio Building Workshop (35 minutes):

- Activity: Students review their existing works, select pieces that best represent their skills, and plan any additional pieces needed to fill gaps.
- Materials: Provide art supplies for any new works or adjustments.
- Guidance: Offer feedback on each student's choices, focusing on how well each piece communicates their skills and artistic perspective.

Peer Review Session (5 minutes):



- Instructions: Students present their portfolio plans to a peer, who provides feedback based on the clarity of artistic voice and adherence to targeted schools' requirements.

Wrap-Up (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Excellent work today! Continue refining your portfolios. Tomorrow, we'll focus on writing your artist statements, which will accompany your portfolio submissions."

Day 4: Writing Your Artist Statement

Objective: Guide students in writing articulate and engaging artist statements that complement their portfolios and express their unique artistic identity.

Materials for Day 4:

- Computers or tablets for drafting statements
- Examples of effective artist statements
- Handouts with prompts and tips for writing artist statements

Instructions and Script for Day 4:

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "An artist statement is a personal reflection that introduces your portfolio. It should provide insight into your artistic process, your influences, and your goals."

Review of Effective Artist Statements (10 minutes):

- Presentation: Show examples of compelling artist statements. Analyze the structure, content, and tone that make each effective.
- Discuss: "What elements can you borrow from these examples to craft your own statement that reflects your artistic journey and aspirations?"

Artist Statement Writing Workshop (35 minutes):

- Activity: Students draft their own artist statements using guided prompts that encourage them to discuss their artistic influences, techniques, and the themes they explore.
- Materials: Provide computers or tablets; handouts with prompts like, "Describe the evolution of your artistic style," "What themes do you frequently explore and why?" and "How do your personal experiences influence your work?"
- Guidance: Circulate among students, providing individual feedback and helping them refine their narratives to ensure clarity and depth.

Peer Feedback Session (5 minutes):

- Instructions: Students exchange their drafts with a partner for feedback on clarity, impact, and authenticity.
- Teacher Script: "Use this opportunity to refine your statements based on the feedback. Effective communication is key in making your statement stand out."

Wrap-Up (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Well done on articulating your artistic visions. Tomorrow, we'll prepare for interviews and finalize your application materials."

Day 5: Preparing for Interviews and Finalizing Applications

Objective: Prepare students for interviews with art schools and ensure all application materials are polished and complete.

Materials for Day 5:

- Computers or tablets
- Handouts with common interview questions and tips
- Checklist for finalizing art school applications

Instructions and Script for Day 5:

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Today we wrap up with interview preparation and a review of all your application materials. Being well-prepared can set you apart in the competitive environment of art school admissions."

Interview Preparation Session (20 minutes):

- Presentation: Discuss typical art school interview formats and common questions.
- Role-Playing: Students practice responding to questions like, "Can you discuss your favorite piece in your portfolio?" and "What do you hope to gain from your time at our school?"
- Materials: Provide a list of common questions and tips for effective responses.
- Guidance: Offer feedback on students' demeanor, clarity of responses, and engagement with the interviewer.

Application Review and Checklist (25 minutes):

- Activity: Students use a comprehensive checklist to ensure all parts of their applications are complete and polished, including the portfolio, artist statement, application forms, and letters of recommendation.
- Materials: Provide checklists and access to computers for any last-minute adjustments.
- Discussion: Review each component with the class, ensuring students feel confident about each part.
- Teacher Script: "Let's ensure everything is in order. A complete and polished application is your first step towards a successful art school admission."

Final Discussion and Course Wrap-Up (5 minutes):

- Instructions: "Reflect on what you've learned this week and how it has prepared you for applying to art school."
- Teacher Script: "You've all worked incredibly hard this week. Remember, the journey to becoming a successful artist is a marathon, not a sprint. Use the skills and knowledge you've gained this week as you continue to grow and develop both your craft and your career."



Extensions and Assessments

Extensions:

- Continued Portfolio Development: Encourage students to continue refining their portfolios based on feedback and self-assessment.
- Advanced Artist Statements: Students can revisit and revise their artist statements as they develop new works or gain new insights into their artistic motivations.
- Mock Interviews: Arrange for more comprehensive mock interviews with art educators or local artists to simulate a more realistic interview environment.

Assessments:

- Portfolio Review: Conduct a formal assessment of each student's portfolio based on clarity of artistic voice, technical skill, and alignment with target schools' requirements.
- Artist Statement Evaluation: Grade artist statements on clarity, depth, and engagement with the reader.
- Interview Performance: Offer feedback on mock interview performances, focusing on students' ability to articulate their thoughts clearly and effectively.