

LINDSEY WHITTLE

Archive as Action: Paper Stories



GRADE LEVEL: 6-12; can be adapted to various grade levels



OBJECTIVE

This lesson allows students explore media and challenge their understanding of “fine art” media. Students will explore connections between storytelling and artmaking, as well as utilize critical thinking around the concept of identity.

VOCABULARY

- Identity
- Narrative
- Storytelling

MATERIALS

- Various papers
- Duct Tape
- Headbands, clips, buttons, beads, tinsel, streamers and other embellishments
- Stapler and staples
- Scissors
- Glue Dots

BEFORE HAND

Visit the CAC exhibition Archive As Action and discuss how Lindsey Whittle uses wearable projects to create narratives and conversation around how what you wear tells a story. Whittle’s work can also be viewed at <http://www.sparklezilla.com/lindsey-m-whittle>

DISCUSSION

- Have a conversation with students about uniforms. What are they? What story do they tell?
- Transition the conversation to the clothes that people wear every day. What kind of stories do they tell?
- Ask: “how can what we wear—clothes, shoes, accessories, make-up, hair styles/colors—tell a story about who we are—our identity?”

PROCEDURES

- Have the students to make a list of ideas, causes, objects, and/or interests that are important to them (examples include movies, people, political issues, sports, hobbies, etc.). No more than five minutes—students should have 2-5 things on their list. Emphasize that there is no wrong answer.
- Have the students prioritize their list. If they have more than five ideas/interests, have them narrow it down to five. If they haven’t come up with five, have them build up to five ideas.
- Ask several of the students to share their Top Five.
- Give the students a few more minutes to narrow down to the most important interest or idea on their list to them right now.
- Ask students to share the word/idea they chose. Point out that all are valid—there is no wrong answer; they should be authentic to themselves.
- Explain to the students that they will be creating a paper outfit or accessory that tells the story of the idea/interest that they chose. Encourage them to explore the materials available and test what they think it can do.
- Have the students make the paper outfit or accessory. Remind them to be authentic to themselves—can be a wearable sculpture or skirt or shirt, a hat or piece of jewelry.

POST PROJECT DISCUSSION

- Have the students present their paper fashion story.
- Have them explain their choices of story, materials.
- For more fun, have a fashion show, take photos, etc.

RESOURCES

- <http://www.sparklezilla.com/lindsey-m-whittle>