Art Can Teach the World Design Brief

Mrs. Megan Bailey-Art Teacher

Trantwood Elementary School

Background:

Contemporary Artists around the world work to teach viewers about world problems through their artworks. Students will study artist Vik Muniz and his work with the largest trash dump in the world as well as a documentarian who pointed out how plastic and plastic bags are a continuing problem. Students will then study the artworks produced by both artists and discuss how it can impact what viewers think about these problems and ultimately inspire change. Students will also see how there are some engineers and scientists who use contemporary artwork as an inspiration to continue their own research and teaching.

Challenge:

Students will research a world problem in which they have a connection, or interest in. After their research, students will propose an artwork that can teach the viewers about their area of research. Students can choose their method of creating including such things as painting, sculpture, or collage. Common areas of research include overpopulation, animal rescue, greenhouse gases, pollution, saving the honey bee population, growing local food compared to food from far away, homelessness or hunger, and so on.

Criteria:

Students will create a work of art in which their subject of research is clear. The viewer should be able to understand the subject of the artwork. The artwork should be carefully built, or drawn, and completed by painting or adding other types of surface texture. The student will also submit an artist statement, in their choice of format, to explain their work. Students will be working together to create the rubric which will be used to assess their work.

Materials:

Students will have access to any material within the art room which has been collected for this project: white drawing paper, scrap construction paper, discarded boxes, cardboard tubes, egg cartons, pieces of foam, wallpaper scraps, fabric scraps, discarded pencils, plastic bags, and plastic packing pillows. Students will have access to masking tape, glue, and hot glue for construction. Students will have access to a surface texture of their choice including paint, markers, oil pastels and anything else they propose. Lastly, students are allowed to bring in additional materials to support their work, for example photographs or additional recycled materials.

Targeted Visual Art Standards:

**EL5.2** The student will develop artistic voice/vision through choices of media, techniques and subject matter. (SOL 5.3)

**EL5.11** The student will investigate how art reflects environmental, social and global issues. (SOL 5.12, 5.13