

Length In Art And Music

Playing around with length is something we have in common with the visual arts. Artists manipulate length of brushstrokes, mediums and exposure to create, while composers use length of sound and silence. NAFME content standard 8 can be one that is challenging to teach. Here is a lesson that will help you meet this standard in a fun and simple way!

NAFME Content Standard 8: Understanding Relationships Between Music, the Other Arts, and disciplines outside the Arts

Objectives:

1. Students will identify similarities and differences in the meanings of common terms used in the various arts.
2. Students will create a composition based on a work of art.

Materials:

- 3 Sets of Note Knacks and Time Signature Frames
- Sentence Strips and Pencils
- Several pictures of different types of artwork

Methods:

1. Show children the various works of art that you have one by one (pictures of paintings, sculpture, buildings, photographs, etc.. like Vincent van Gogh's Starry Night or Piet Mondrian's Composition with Yellow, Blue and Red) Modern art works really well for this.
2. Talk about the use of color and lines
3. Can kids find lines that are long and short in these works?
4. How are those lines organized? Because music is linear, students can decide where the beginning, middle and an end, could be? Is there only one right way?
5. Choose one artwork as a class and compose a piece of music that represents it
6. If there are several long lines then perhaps the music should begin with several half notes or whole notes. If short lines dominate the piece, then maybe staccato eighths or sixteenths are in order. The point is that kids can choose to look at art anyway they choose, as long as they can back up their claims.
7. If you use centers in your room, this lesson is perfect! Set the 3 Note Knacks sets in that center and when a child is there, he/ she can create a composition based on what artwork he/ she chooses!

Assessment:

- Were students able to compose a piece of music?
- Did they notate it correctly?
- Are they able to explain why they chose the notation they did?