

LIFE SKILLS SNAPSHOTS

FOR ART TEACHERS

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INTRODUCTION

The Overcoming Obstacles Elementary, Middle, and High School Level curricula are the most comprehensive resources for life skills education available, providing educators with the tools to teach their students communication skills, decision making, goal setting, and much more. We developed *Snapshots for Art Teachers* so you can now supplement and reinforce the Overcoming Obstacles lessons students are being taught already in your school; or, if life skills are not being taught, allow you the opportunity to bring invaluable instruction to your students.

Please contact us at info@overcomingobstacles.org if you would like assistance with the implementation of *Snapshots for Art Teachers*.

Snapshots | **COMMUNICATION**

COMMUNICATION JOURNEY

10 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will interpret a quote about the importance of listening.

Read this Spanish proverb to your class, “Two great talkers will not travel far together.” Have students draw cartoons to illustrate the truth of this proverb.

THREE’S COMPANY

10 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will work in groups and use good listening skills to create works of art.

Have students count off into groups of three to take part in the following activity:

- All ones are “sculptures,” twos are “artists,” and threes are “clay.”
- The artist is not allowed to look at the clay, and the clay is not allowed to look at either the artist or the sculpture.
- Have the sculptures strike a pose of their choosing.
- The artists should describe the pose to their clay.
- The clay’s job is to try and duplicate the pose by listening to the artist’s descriptions and asking him or her questions.

To conclude, discuss what worked, what didn’t, and why.

SHORT IMPRESSIONS

10 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will use their analytical abilities to concisely summarize an image.

Have students view newspaper photos or books of portrait photography. Have them write a one-sentence impression of what’s happening in each photo. Have students share their responses in small groups. Have them discuss what gave them their impressions.

EXPRESS IT

10 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will learn about nonverbal communication through artistic expression.

Share with your students that art can be used as a means of communicating a thought or emotion, then discuss the different methods an artist can use to evoke a certain thought or feeling. Have your students create and share quick drawings that evoke different emotions.

Snapshots | **DECISION MAKING**

WHICH PORT?

15 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will illustrate a given quote to show how the decision making process begins.

Read this quote by Seneca the Younger to your students, “If one does not know to which port one is sailing, no wind is favorable.” Have students illustrate this quote (*for example, showing a ship labeled with a specific decision and being buffeted by winds*). Display the drawings or have students explain them in small groups.

QUALITY OF YOUR DECISIONS

10 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will consider how the quality of their decisions affects their futures.

Have students divide a paper in half and depict on one side what their life would look like if they only made bad decisions and on the other side what their life would look like if they only made good decisions.

TAKE ACTION

10 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will discuss as a group the consequences of not taking action when faced with making a decision.

Read this quote by Gary Collins to your students, “We can try to avoid making choices by doing nothing, but even that is a decision.” Have students give examples of choices that were made because they took no action.

KNOW YOURSELF

10 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will first analyze and then artistically depict a famous quote about decision making.

Read this quote by Dr. Clark Moustakas to your students, “When a person acts without knowledge of what he thinks, feels, needs, or wants, he does not yet have the option of choosing to act differently.” As a class, discuss the meaning of this quote. Have students draw pictures illustrating the quote.

CONSEQUENCES

10 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will consider the repercussions of decisions.

Have students create posters with advice about a choice that could be difficult to follow through on (*for example, saying no to smoking, doing homework daily*). They should include three consequences of following and not following the advice. Display the finished posters around the classroom.

RIPPLE EFFECT

10 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will artistically depict the effects decisions can have.

Have students depict a decision as ripples going across the surface of water; each wave radiating from the source of the splash can represent consequences of the initial decision.

DECISION TREES

10 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will map the effects of potential decisions.

Have students draw branching decision trees about an issue of their choosing illustrating a decision they must soon make, the options available to them, and possible consequences for each alternative.

Snapshots | **GOAL SETTING**

DREAM BIG

10 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will use their imaginations to identify goals for their future.

Have students use posters to create “Dream Boards” that feature things they wish to make a part of their lives in the future. Images can include careers, places to live/visit, material objects (*homes, cars, clothing*), and anything else they may wish for.

AND THE WINNER IS...

10 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will identify a goal they wish to accomplish.

Have students create sculptures or drawings that represent awards they one day hope to win (*for example, a Heisman, Oscar, Grammy, Nobel Prize*).

GOAL TOTEM

15 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will create works of art that show their goals.

Have students create totem poles that show their goals. Have them glue a cardboard base to an empty paper towel tube. To tell the story of their goals, they can glue on small pictures and objects, snippets of newspaper articles, etc. Have students explain the significance of their totems in small groups.

GET BACK UP

10 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE: Students will interpret a quote about the importance of perseverance.

Read this quote by Mamie McCullough to your students, “Success is failure with the dirt brushed off.” Have students create posters or collages to illustrate this idea.