

Comparing & Contrasting Artwork

Materials/Resources:

Photographs of artwork found in art magazines, books, and websites. Some of my favorite artists to compare and contrast include Van Gogh, Mary Cassatt, Monet, Norman Rockwell, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Andy Warhol, Edvard Munch, and Georgia O'Keeffe. Also compare early art with Contemporary, American, and Southwestern Art. Use pairs of pictures with stark differences in form and subject when initially doing this lesson. Differences can be more subtle as the students' progress in their ability on this task.

Websites for pictures and bios:

<http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/>

<http://collections.nrm.org/highlights.jsp>

Skills Targeted:

- *Vocabulary
- *Compare and Contrast
- *Inferential thinking
- *Verbal Expression
- *Detailing
- *Opinions

Instruction:

1. To introduce the lesson, discuss with students, two contrasting photographs of artwork. Each example of art should demonstrate notable differences in elements of style, color, texture, and subject matter. Compare the two depictions of art for the students and emphasize similarities and differences in form and subject.
2. Discuss "mood" and solicit input from students regarding the mood that they attach to the example artwork. Ask the students "why" they attach a particular "mood" to the pictures.
3. Either individually or in small groups, each student is then provided a pair of contrasting artwork to analyze independently.
4. Each student identifies three or more differences between the two depictions and three or more similarities. In addition, each student indicates a "mood" or "feeling" that a particular picture may elicit.
5. Students discuss and present in teams or to the class.