**Problem Statement**
Although many researchers advocate for the use of democratic teaching practices in a classroom, just how art teachers can successfully integrate democratic teaching practices in a middle school art room remain uncertain.

**Research Questions**
- What might an eighth grade democratic art classroom look like in practice?
- What are the teacher and student roles in a democratic art classroom?
- What types of art content works well in a democratic art classroom?
- What problems might one encounter when trying to establish a democratic art classroom?
- What can I learn from establishing a democratic art classroom?

**Data Collection Methods**
- Observation Interviews
- Questionnaires
- Reflective Writing
- Student Sketches and Artwork

**Review of Literature**
- Critical Pedagogy
- Democratic Learning
- Democratic Art Classrooms
- Democracy in Everyday Life
- Middle School Students

**Important Findings**
- Teacher and Student Roles Change in a Democratic Art Class
- Student Voice is Key in the Art Making Process
- Studying Social Issues in the Art Room Can Satisfy the Needs of Youth
- Students Need a Safe Classroom Environment to Explore Difficult Issues
- Democratic Classroom Challenges: Lack of resources, materials, and time