

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?

Review of Literature

Critical Pedagogy
Democratic Learning
Democratic Art Classrooms
Democracy in Everyday Life
Middle School Students

Data Collection Methods

Observation Interviews
Questionnaires
Reflective Writing
Student Sketches and Artwork

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