

Allison Bullard  
MiT  
Prompt A response  
October 2023

My art history and art studio coursework became the basis for the lessons I created while working as a camp counselor and art teacher for elementary age children. I graduated from Western Washington University with a degree in Fine Art and Art History and intend to pursue my art endorsement. My coursework confronted the ways I saw my art practice and influenced my teaching style. I learned core art techniques such as color theory, composition, and interpreting works of art. Combining my developing hard skills and knowledge of fine art rhetoric informed the way I designed age-appropriate lesson plans for my students.

When I began my art education I was under the impression my professors would be specific about the techniques I would use for compositions. To my surprise we often discussed technique after the fact - defending my artistic choices and voice. *Why did I portray a hand in that position? What emotions did this color pallet evoke?* During my senior year of college I started as an afterschool art teacher for elementary age students. I replicated my professors' teaching approach in my work by challenging my kindergarten students to fill the entire paper however they saw fit. For the kids in third through fifth grade I challenged them not to throw away what they were working on, but rather draw over it until they were happy with the result. I found this teaching style was a good way to introduce them to new mediums while creating a safe place for them to express themselves.

At Western I learned the fundamentals of artmaking which informed my teaching practice. At Evergreen I intend to learn the fundamentals of creating art lessons for elementary age students in a public school setting. My plans for next steps at Evergreen are to build relationships with established art teachers, take relevant classes to strengthen my teaching foundation, and expand my understanding of what it means to be an art educator.