



Mikaela Simmang, *Kemper* / East View High School

Advocacy

Have your voice heard! Advocacy is public support to insure quality art programs in our schools. Excellent art education has to be visible. Teachers, parents, and administrators need to work together to support opportunities for our students to create and engage in art. It's time to bring our knowledge and voice to art education advocacy to ensure excellence, equity, equality and access for all students.

Ten Lessons the Arts Teach

By Elliot Eisner

The arts teach children to make good judgments about qualitative relationships. Unlike much of the curriculum in which correct answers and rules prevail, in the arts, it is judgment rather than rules that prevail.

The arts teach children that problems can have more than one solution and that questions can have more than one answer.

The arts celebrate multiple perspectives. One of their large lessons is that there are many ways to see and interpret the world.

The arts teach children that in complex forms of problem solving purposes are seldom fixed, but change with circumstance and opportunity. Learning in the arts requires the ability and a willingness to surrender to the unanticipated possibilities of the work as it unfolds.

The arts make vivid the fact that neither words in their literal form nor number exhaust what we can know. The limits of our language do not define the limits of our cognition.

The arts teach students that small differences can have large effects. The arts traffic in subtleties.

The arts teach students to think through and within a material. All art forms employ some means through which images become real.

The arts help children learn to say what cannot be said. When children are invited to disclose what a work of art helps them feel, they must reach into their poetic capacities to find the words that will do the job.

The arts enable us to have experience we can have from no other source and through such experience to discover the range and variety of what we are capable of feeling.

The arts' position in the school curriculum symbolizes to the young what adults believe is important.

SOURCE: Eisner, E. (2002). *The Arts and the Creation of Mind*, In Chapter 4, *What the Arts Teach and How It Shows*. (pp. 70-92). Yale University Press. Available from NAEA Publications.



Morgan Grisby, *I Got It* / Ridge Point High School

ADVOCACY

Art Education

Be Visual / Act Now

Advocacy Toolbox

Promote Your Visual Arts Program

- Exhibit Student and Teacher artwork in school and in community venues
- Post lesson objective(s)/explanatory text with exhibits and displays
- Hold art receptions for exhibitions
- Invite parents, administrators, school board, district news contact, local press to exhibitions and receptions
- Advertise in school newspaper, district newsletter, local newspaper, and internet
- Create a website for your visual art program
- Participate in social media with a program specific address
- Exhibit at Open House: pictures, banners, printed information, student portfolios
- Make postcards/notecards with student art
- Create posters for exhibits
- Display art quotes in the building
- Organize an Art Club
- Create a chapter of the National Art Honor Society (NAHS)
- Join a Parent Teacher Association
- Participate in PTA “Reflections”
- Publish Eisner’s *Ten Lessons the Arts Teach*

- Join Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) / taea.org
- Enter TAEA VASE, Jr. VASE, or TEAM
- Participate in Big Art Day (First Thursday in March)
- Participate in Youth Art Month (YAM) – March annually
- Enter the YAM flag contest via taea.org
- Enter the YAM Capital Exhibition via taea.org
- Present to School Board, Administrators, and Teachers during YAM
- Attend TAEA conferences and events / taea.org
- Use a Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)-based curriculum
- Visit the Center for Educator Development in Fine Arts (CEDFA) / cedfa.org

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Be Visual

In the 21st century, everything around us is VISUAL. From the clothes we wear, to the app we use on the smartphone we bought because of its function, but most important, its design. User interfaces for daily tasks are moving from the written to the visual. The way something looks has now become as important as its functionality. Our children consume knowledge from a multitude of sources mostly through screens – game screens, iPod screens, computer screens, flat panel television screens, data projection screens, and many more. Gone are the days of producing imagery on the fly without a graphic designer or someone with some visual art knowledge. Consumers demand websites that are slick, clean and sophisticated to drive people to their content and achieve their business goals. You have to Be Visual in the world today.

Did you know that....

We live in a visual age. Most children and youth spend 10 hours per day in front of screens composed of pictures and words, often two types of screens at once.

The arts provide jobs. 1.25 million Americans currently work in the visual arts. Jobs for artists and designers are predicted to increase by 43% by 2016.

Art education equips students to form mental images, which can be used to solve problems—an ability that chemists, engineers, and architects use to create models and that inventors use to think up new ideas.

Art education requires students to use their eyes and hands to give form to ideas generated in the brain—a discipline that Nobel Prize winner Eric Kandel proved boosts brain power. Research also indicates that high school art programs engage students and keep in school those at-risk of dropping out.