

sk8art

Grade Level:

middle years to high school

Subject Matter:

visual arts/language arts
social studies/advertising

Curricular Uses:

This lesson plan encourages students to look at objects in depth – to discover meaning, function, and societal implications.

Materials/Resources

Required:

- everyday objects
- drawing pencils, watercolour pencils (opt.), markers, or pencil crayons
- access to books, videos, internet, etc. on advertising

Evaluation:

Lesson 1 – Looking at Objects

Overview:

This activity begins with an everyday object and takes a critical look at both its function and the larger implications of what it says about society.

Learning Objectives:

- students will be able to look critically at an object & analyze its function
- through extended activity 1, the students imagine an object as a playground, and learn about “scale” in drawing
- students will consider how advertising places value on objects through their design & desirability

Procedures:

Choose an object with the potential to generate a great deal of discussion, such as a skateboard, a “disposable” McDonald’s hamburger box, a “Swiffer” cleaning sheet, a can of soda pop, a box of “Lean Cuisine”, a dish detergent bottle, etc. Propose a series of questions – begin by asking students to describe the shape, colour, texture, size, and material from which the object is made. Then proceed to the functions of the object and how its design supports those functions, who uses it, how it’s used, etc. Finally, elicit statements about what that object says about societal values.

Extended Activity:

1. Students make a large, detailed pencil drawing of an everyday object (shoe, skateboard, hat, phone, etc.) They then add tiny people doing activities (such as skateboarding, cycling, mountain climbing, repairing, rollerblading, skiing, etc.) The people can be coloured in with w/c pencils, markers or pencil crayons.
2. Connect to unit on advertising & its implications (product design, who is product designed for, product desirability, etc.)
3. See lesson plan 2 “Design a Skateboard”

Web Links:

- www.teachervision.fen.com (“can wheels cut down on friction?”)