



Crystal Balls—Visions of our Future

Integrating Art and Social Studies

Hands-On Lesson for Grades 4-8 Students that links:
Personal Aspirations, Arts Advocacy and Citizenship

Lesson Objective: Help students envision their futures and think about ways that creative experiences can affect them now and in the years ahead. Link their personal reflections to a civics lesson as they identify who in their school and community advocate for art education and explore how these advocates create positive change.

Background: Introduce students to the compelling research that documents the power of the arts to help transform schools, increase student engagement, graduation rates and life-long success. Ask them to consider how enriched arts experiences will lead to their personal academic success and how art builds their 21st century skills. Encourage students to envision their futures and visually represent how the arts help unleash endless possibilities that will change their lives.

Students Make Crystal Balls to See Themselves in a Successful Future:

Dream—Ask students to imagine how they will apply their creativity to their future success.

- What are your hopes and aspirations for your future? What do you want to achieve?
- How will creativity help you be successful? What would your happiness and success look like? For example, would you apply your creativity to a career? Does your future include being a performer on stage? An author writing a book? A scientist making a great discovery? An engineer designing an innovative technology? An entrepreneur running a business? A musical star? An environmentalist finding new water sources? A doctor helping others? How does the art education you receive today help prepare you for that future?
- How have arts advocates helped to ensure you have art in school and increased your opportunity for creative experiences? How do community leaders and educators who defend students' rights to art education help shape your future? How might you do the same for children in the future?

Create

- Ask students to use Crayola Model Magic® to form characters and a mini-scene that will fit inside their “crystal ball” (an upside down clear plastic cup). Place the clear plastic cup over the Model Magic sculpture and decorate the outside with window markers or window crayons. Ask them to use symbols that are iconic for communicating “success” and “creativity” and personalizing them for their unique dreams and aspirations.

Share

- Describe to others how creativity is shaping your future success. What do the visual elements in your crystal ball represent?
- How have others in your school or community worked to make sure creative experiences are available and help you prepare for a bright future?
- Discuss the similarities of beliefs and goals among students and their appreciation for arts advocates.

