

Silver Bullet Productions

Using Filmmaking in Teaching Art

There is no end to the possibilities of using film to enhance the teaching of Art. Students and/or Teachers could have these skills, and the camera equipment can be easily stored or shared.

- If you have a long term art project, film the steps and stages from planning to completion. You can use to share the improvement, determination, or use as a teaching tool for the next group who attempts the same project; you can put film clips on the school website; or send the final edited version to your students and their parents so they can see their progress or use for college.
- You can create a “how to” about specific skills or techniques for a library for Art department to share with other art teachers, or use again for teaching future classes; the specific techniques might be a way to remind a student of something taught or missed.
- Interview living artists about methods, motivation, techniques your students might model; build an artists’ library for aspiration, motivation, and artistic techniques.
- Have a student tell his or her own story of their art; In a time of Zoom, each student’s story can be shared on line, shared with parents or family, or edited for a classroom exhibit.
- Film each item created during the course of a semester for an Art show that can be shared; or create a student portfolio of each project completed so the child has a permanent story of semester’s work and achievements; this can be saved for college or art shows.
- Connect art projects to bigger picture for relevancy; is the theme of the art linked to Culture? Race? Climate or environment? Gender? Create the montage that adds the visuals of the broader issue to the art; collaborate with teachers from other schools.
- Work with other disciplines. Art – costumes, murals, art of the time – lends itself to making History and Social Studies, Literature come alive. For example, recreate events told from a different perspective, with the help of art of the historic times or conflict in literature. For the Odyssey, put Odysseus on trial for the murder of Penelope’s suitors, with the art department creating the scenery and costumes.
- Submit films to festivals and competitions! It is motivating and lucrative. The Emmys recognize student filmmakers each year, and they are always seeking young filmmakers from New Mexico. This might motivate teachers and students to complete a short film project for submission.