



THE ART OF GIVING

A LESSON IN CREATING, SHARING AND RECEIVING!



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More than a Lesson Plan:

There's no formal "lesson plan" for this concept (well at least not one that I wanted to write) because I believe that all Art of Giving exchanges should be organic and personal. The plan is in the process, and the process is open for interpretation.

If you'd like to initiate a gift exchange within your classes, school, or district start by asking yourself some questions.

1. When do you want the "exchange" to happen?
2. What will be exchanged? What is the creative task?
3. Will the exchange occur in one direction or more than one? Who receives what?
4. Will the materials needed require funding? If so, who might fund it? PTA? Donations? Art club?
5. How will the exchange occur? In the Mail? a surprise gift? a Swap? a Party? By a number?

Stylistic Variations to the Art of Giving Idea:

The following exchange ideas are far from an exhaustive list. Consider them as starting points and inspiration for developing your own ideas!

Art of Giving #1:

- Exchanged within your own group of students.
- Everyone makes one thing to give away and receives one thing created by someone else.
- Let students wrap their own gift.
- Color code each class somehow (bows, tissue, tape) so that no one can choose a gift made by themselves or by someone in the same class. It shares the love further.

Art of Giving #2:

- Exchange within your own group of students or outside of your own classes with another class.
- Everyone makes TWO things - one to keep and one to give away. Participants each receive a gift created by someone else.
- This approach can be done in your own school or with another school in or out of state.
- Be sure the number of individuals in each group are similar. (Someone might need to make extra.)

Art of Giving #3:

- Exchange within your school district across grade levels. This is an excellent way for older students to work and collaborate with younger students and for teachers across grade levels to connect. It is also a great way for a teacher of older level kids to initiate a connection with the kids who will be future students.
- This approach works especially well with literature and creative projects that encourage writing and expressive, heartfelt communication. Older students love working with younger students.
- Be sure the number of individuals in each group are similar. (Someone might need to make extra.)

Standards:

- VA.9-12.1.5.12prof.Cr1a - Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors.
- VA.9-12.1.5.12prof.Cr2a - Engage in making a work of art or design without having a preconceived plan.
- SEL.PK-12.5.2 - Utilize positive communication and social skills to interact effectively with others.