



**Title:** Powerful Portraits: Teaching Through Collage

**Audience:** 10th-12th Grade

**Abstract:** This art project follows the unique process of tissue paper collage to build bold and colorful portraits. My piece, entitled "Hope Defined," was inspired by Baraka, a young man in Tanzania impacted by the non-profit work of Convoy of Hope. Using the same style as Eric Carle, this collage uses various pieces of tissue paper to create a vivid and personable portrait.

**National Core Art Standards:**

VA: Cr1.2.IIa - Choose from a range of materials and methods of traditional and contemporary artistic practices to plan works of art and design.

VA: Pr4.1.IIa - Analyze, select, and critique personal artwork for a collection or portfolio presentation.



**Objectives:**

Students will be able to harness creative expression through Portrait Design by:

- Journalling and writing out their plans and color ideas for the project. They must choose either a warm or cool color palette.
- Sketching a realistic portrait of their choice.
- Designing a color palette plan and learning about the unique relationship between Value & Color.
- Painting tissue paper to then piece together their planned portrait design learning about the medium and how to use it effectively.
- Reflecting on the impact of their individual portrait (was the design everything they hoped for, or could it be improved upon?) and with their peers.

**Suggested Materials:**

Scissors, 16x20 Canvas, Brushes of various sizes, Water cups, Matte Mod Podge, Painted Tissue Paper (Customized and Painted by each student with Acrylic Paint), White Tissue Paper, Eraser, and Black Chalk Paint (backdrop).

**Activities:**

- **Planning:** Have the students choose a picture of a portrait for their inspiration (teach and dialogue about what makes a compelling portrait). They will then make a cool or warm color palette plan organizing their values and colors into a 9-Step value scale, noting where in their portrait these values will be utilized.
- **Preparing:** Students will then mix their desired colors and paint them onto white tissue paper. While these pieces dry, have the students draft a portrait sketch on paper and then sketch it directly onto the canvas. (Option: students may prime and tone their canvas based on their color selections).

- **Executing:** Students can trace the area on their canvas where they want a particular color to go. Have them cut out the shape on plain paper or white tissue paper. Then using this shape, they can use it as a stencil for their painted tissue paper pieces. Build up the portrait by suggesting they start from their darkest values first and build up their choices from there. Adhere the tissue paper to the canvas using a thin layer of matte Mod Podge. Repeat each value choice until the full portrait is complete. Adjust, as necessary. Finally, apply one last layer of Mod Podge. Using black matte paint, carefully paint around the canvas to outline the piece.

**Assessment:**

- Individual Reflection: Have students self-evaluate their work three times during the project, at the beginning, middle, and end answering these questions: What do you like? What would you improve in the future if you were to do it again?
- Group Reflection: Have the students present their work about their inspiration, process, and results. Afterward, students revisit their journals and reflect upon their peer's choices and inspirations.
- Teacher Reflection: Assess students based on their individual effort and improvement. Have a grading rubric that measures how well they followed the planning, preparing, executing, and reflecting stages of the project.

**Accessibility:**

*Language Adjustments to Support Diverse Learners:* Display pictures (either printed or on-screen) that clearly illustrate every step of the process. After the project is introduced, use translation software and be available to dialogue with the student or students about any questions they may have. Be sure to have a plan in place to dialogue with the student's homeroom teacher and/or counselor about specific challenges ahead of time.