

Self-Initiated Art Making of Children

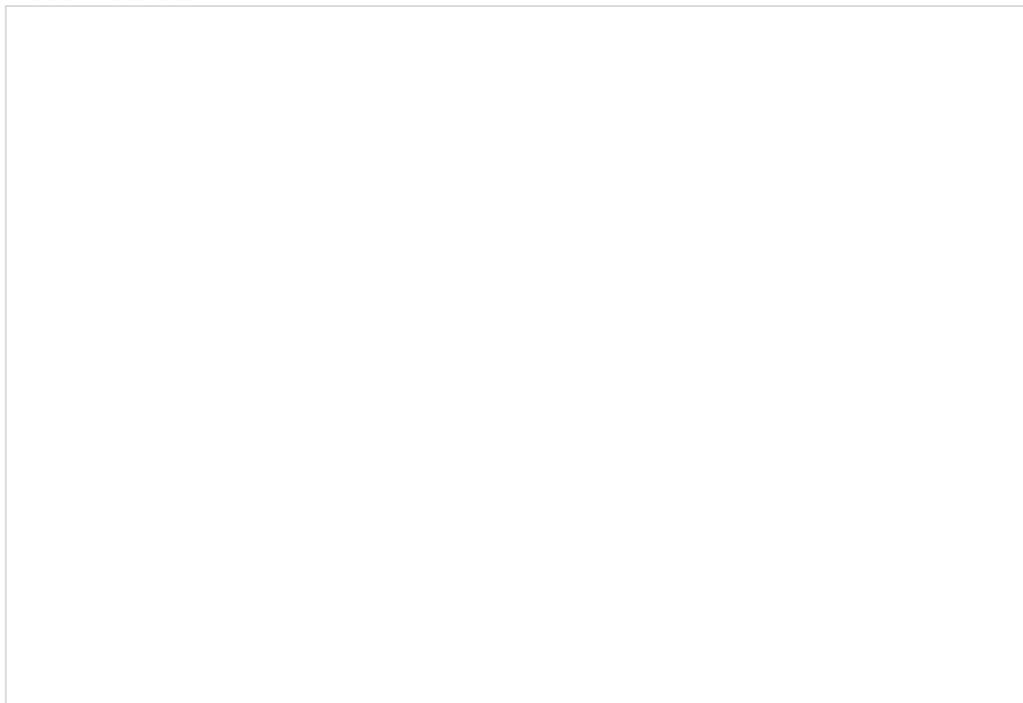
Vicky Grube
Appalachian State University

Citation: Grube, V. (2009). Admitting their worlds: Reflections of a teacher/researcher on the self-initiated art making of children. *International Journal of Education & the Arts*, 10(7). Retrieved [date] from <http://www.ijea.org/v10n7/>.

Abstract

"I'm trying the least of anything to control this drawing ... in fact I want it to run away with me." says Billy, a fifth grader who reads at 13th grade level. He clears his throat and begins to sketch and his stories flood the page. This qualitative research paper looks at what free sketchbook drawing does for a group of boys ages 8-14 who participate in an after-school drawing club. The writing blends critical pedagogy with the influence of the adult media culture (e.g, war, television, movies, video games, and the internet) and my perceptions as researcher/teacher.

Visual Abstract



[This article is available in PDF format.](#)

[home](#) | [articles](#) | [abstracts](#) | [editors](#) | [submit](#) | [subscribe](#) |

This article has been accessed times since February 1, 2009.

Teachers also play an important role in the classroom when it comes to the environment. Students often mimic a teacher's actions. If the teacher prepares a warm, happy environment, students are more likely to be happy. An environment set by the teacher can be either positive or negative. If students sense the teacher is angry, students may react negatively to that and therefore learning can be impaired. Teachers are responsible for the social behavior in their classrooms. Teachers are typically highly respected by people in the community and therefore become a role model to students and parents. Mentoring. Mentoring is a natural role taken on by teachers, whether it is intentional or not. This again can have positive or negative effects on children. Self-reflection is a simple way to dig deeper into your feelings and find out why you were doing something or feeling a certain way. With a profession as challenging as teaching, self-reflection offers teachers an opportunity to think about what works and what doesn't in their classroom. We teachers can use reflective teaching as a way to analyze and evaluate our own practices so we can focus on what works. Why is Self-Reflection So Important? Effective teachers are first to admit that no matter how good a lesson is, our teaching strategies can always be improved. Oftentimes it's why we seek out our colleagues' opinions.