

Demonstrating CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

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Showing an intrinsic understanding of content knowledge is fundamental to your success as a student-teacher in art. What does content knowledge include? Content knowledge deals with:

1. awareness and understanding of art in a variety of diverse contexts.
2. making informed selections about art instruction.

The National Art Education Association has developed criteria for art teacher preparation. The following lists will give a brief introduction to those standards as they relate to content knowledge. Review these points with your cooperating teacher or university supervisor. What standards are you meeting? Where do you need more work?

Understanding of Art Content

Art teacher candidates should demonstrate:

1. strong skills in the production of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art objects;
2. an ability to express personal feelings and values through art production;
3. an aptitude for making meaningful interpretations and critical evaluations (both orally and in writing) about their own artwork and the artwork of others;
4. knowledge about cultural and historical contexts in which art has been and is created;
5. an understanding of how art challenges, communicates, and shapes beliefs and values;
6. skills in exploring philosophical and ethical issues related to art (e.g., looking at art from a feminist standpoint or exploring art from a formalist view);
7. an awareness of historical and contemporary art (including tra-



Becoming knowledgeable about feminist issues informs art. Here, student-teachers talk with a member of The Guerilla Girls.

- ditional and nontraditional media from various cultures, places, and times);
8. knowledge of traditional and new technologies in the making of art;
9. a recognition that art exists in a variety of contexts such as museums, online, in galleries, homes, or outdoors;
10. a realization that art informs the human experience and that learning about art is a worthy lifelong pursuit.

Making Informed Selections of Art Instructional Content

Art teacher candidates should demonstrate:

1. an understanding of how and why their personal knowledge about art is important in providing opportunities for their students to learn in meaningful ways about art and artists;
2. recognition of the wide range of learning opportunities that a comprehensive approach to art education provides for a diverse student population;
3. an ability to make informed decisions about their teaching (e.g.,

- selection of appropriate assignments, resources, and types of assessment) so that learning needs of all students are addressed in a meaningful manner;
4. a capacity to make accessible to all students the traditional, popular, and contemporary art worlds.

Reference

NOTE: This article is a brief overview of a more detailed document. Readers are strongly encouraged to read the following reference material:

Henry, C., et al. *Standards for Art Teacher Preparation*. National Art Education Association: Reston, VA, 1999.

In addition, individual states have professional teaching standards. You should refer to those standards during your student teaching experience. ☺

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