


ART FOR ANIMAL SHELTERS

Advocacy Through Animal Portraiture

Students will create expressive portraits of adoptable animals from local shelters to promote animal adoption and raise awareness about the shelter's mission. The unit combines visual art with community engagement, offering students the opportunity to advocate for animals in need while using their artistic skills for social impact. The project may include outreach, donation drives, collaborative displays, and humane education.

OBJECTIVES: Students will...	MATERIALS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a portrait of an adoptable animal using reference images or their own photography. • Learn about the mission and work of a local animal shelter or humane organization. • Use art as a tool to advocate for animal adoption and welfare. • Collaborate to organize a donation drive or awareness campaign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing or painting supplies (charcoal, colored pencils, acrylic paint, etc.) • Mixed media or watercolor paper/canvases • Reference images of adoptable animals (from shelter website or visit) • Recycled fabric or rope (for toys) • Flyers/posters/display boards (for community exhibition) • Old towels/blankets (donations)
SUGGESTED TIMELINE:	
<p>Part 1: Introduction & Humane Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule a visit to a local shelter or humane society. • Learn about the shelter's mission and humane education. • Photograph the animals to use for portraits. <p>Part 2: Creating Animal Portraits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss composition choices that can help to express the animal's personality. • Use the photographs of the animals at the shelter to begin working on portraits. 	

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SUGGESTED TIMELINE:

Part 3: Reflection & Community Engagement

- Write artist statements or adoption bios from the animal's point of view.
- Plan a public display of the artwork in a local business, library, or school to encourage the adoption of the animals.
- Begin donation drive for pet supplies (blankets, towels, treats).
- Optional: Make simple dog/cat toys to donate to the shelter.

Part 4: Advocacy & Action

- Deliver donations and artwork to the shelter.
- Organize additional outreach: flyers, pet care brochures, or a social media campaign.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- Serve as project manager or outreach coordinator
- Design promotional materials for display or event
- Lead toy-making workshops or donation collection
- Present the project to school board, PTA, or local officials

SERVICE LEARNING COMPONENT:

Students are not only creating artwork but actively working to improve conditions for animals through tangible action and community engagement.





EXTENSIONS:

- **Literacy Tie-In:** Create a "Pet Care Booklet" with student illustrations and basic care tips for new adopters.
- **Community Outreach:** Write letters to local businesses requesting exhibition space or partnership.
- **Fundraising:** Sell prints of artwork or host a community event to raise money for the shelter.
- **Cross-Curricular:** Integrate science (animal care), civics (community engagement), or digital media (advocacy campaign).

ART FOR SENIOR CENTERS

Honoring Stories Through Portraiture

Students will interview residents from a local senior center and create meaningful portraits that reflect their life stories. Through this service project, students will practice empathy, artistic skill, and community engagement. The final artwork will be presented as a gift to brighten the senior residents' living spaces and preserve their stories through visual art.

OBJECTIVES: Students will...	MATERIALS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct interviews to listen to and learn from senior community members. • Create a portrait that honors and visually interprets their partner's story. • Connect with individuals in their community through meaningful art-based exchange. • Reflect on the value of storytelling and intergenerational relationships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed interview guides and reflection sheets • Sketchbooks, pencils, erasers • Drawing or painting supplies (charcoal, colored pencils, acrylic paint, etc.) • Mixed media or watercolor paper/canvases • Envelopes and writing supplies for letters
SUGGESTED TIMELINE:	
<p>Part 1: Introduction & Interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the project and discuss why elder stories are important. • Collaborate with a local senior center to arrange interviews (e.g., in person or virtually). • Develop interview questions (either with ELA teachers or during a meeting). • Visit the center and pair students with residents for interviews and reference photos. <p>Part 2: Visual Planning & Sketching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review interview notes and photo references. • Brainstorm visual symbols or personal elements from the interview. • Begin sketches incorporating personal details or background elements. <p>Part 3: Portraits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin working on portraits. • Incorporate meaningful visual elements from the residents' stories. 	 

ART FOR SENIOR CENTERS

Honoring Stories Through Portraiture

SUGGESTED TIMELINE:

Part 4: Final Details

- Reflect on what was learned during the interviews.
- Write companion letters describing the interviewee's story and how it influenced the portrait.

Part 5: Sharing & Celebrating

- Finalize portraits and letters.
- Visit the senior center to present portraits in person (or arrange a gallery drop-off/display if in-person isn't possible).
- Students present their portraits and letters to their interview partners.

Part 6: Reflection

- After project completion, guide students in written or group reflection. Suggested questions:
- What did you learn by listening to someone else's story?
- How did it feel to give your artwork as a gift?
- What was the most rewarding part of this project?



STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- Serve as project lead, interview organizer, or reflection facilitator
- Coordinate communication with senior center staff
- Design flyers or invitations for a portrait reveal event
- Help curate a community gallery exhibition or digital archive

SERVICE LEARNING COMPONENT:

This project deepens students' understanding of intergenerational empathy and honoring elders through storytelling and art. It connects directly to community building, respect, and civic action through creativity.


EXTENSIONS:

- **Display Option:** Create a public gallery exhibit at the senior center or a local community space to showcase the artwork and stories.
- **Digital Project:** Scan portraits and letters into a digital "Honoring Stories Through Portraiture" slideshow or online gallery.
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Pair with ELA or social studies to explore oral history or biography writing.

ART FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS

Uplifting Others Through Creative Superpowers

Students will create personalized artwork—such as uplifting cards, original superhero characters, or small handmade items—to be donated to children at a local hospital. Through thoughtful design and positive messaging, students will offer comfort and joy to young patients while engaging in a meaningful experience. This project is inspired by real-life stories of how handmade cards and art can make a powerful emotional impact.

OBJECTIVES: Students will...	MATERIALS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write uplifting and encouraging messages focused on joy, imagination, and kindness. • Understand the impact of art as a tool for emotional healing and human connection. • Reflect on how their creative work can serve and inspire others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sketching supplies (pencils, paper, markers) • Cardstock, colored paper, envelopes • 3D printer (for optional super hero figurines) • Fabric scraps, felt, stuffing (for optional soft sculpture toys) • Glue, scissors, embellishments (googly eyes, stickers, etc.)
SUGGESTED TIMELINE:	
<p>Part 1: Introduction & Ideation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the project and the goal of bringing joy to children in hospitals. • Prompt students to reflect: <i>What makes you "super"?</i> What personality traits do you want to share with others? • Begin designing original superhero characters based on these traits. <p>Part 2: Creating the Superhero & Planning Messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students sketch and refine their superhero designs. • Options: Create 3D models using Tinkercad or use fabric, felt, stuffing to create soft sculpture toys. • Begin thinking about what kind of message or story their superhero might offer a child. • Start designing personalized cards with illustrations and handwritten notes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Discuss the importance of using positive and uplifting language (no illness-related phrases like "Get well soon"). 	

NAHS COMMUNITY SERVICE ART PROJECTS



ART FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS

Uplifting Others Through Creative Superpowers

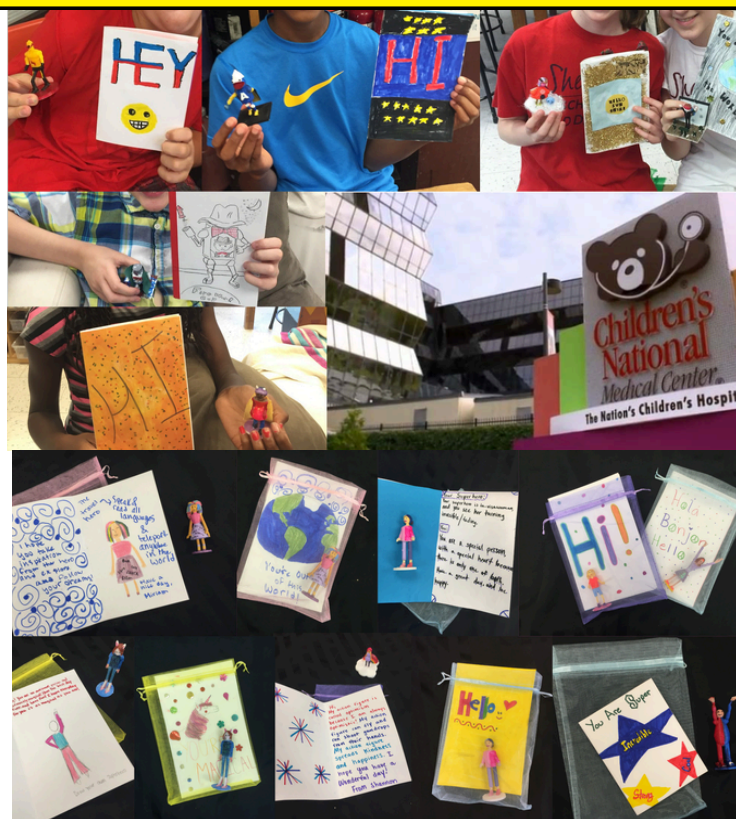
SUGGESTED TIMELINE:

Part 3: Finalizing Artwork & Cards

- Paint and embellish 3D printed figurines or complete soft sculpture toys.
- Complete final cards with carefully written uplifting messages or short superhero stories.
- Package cards and items for donation.

Part 4: Donation & Reflection

- Deliver items to a local children's hospital or coordinate with an organization like Arts For Little Hearts.
- Reflect as a group on the emotional and social impact of the project.
- What part of this project made you feel the most proud?
- How do you think your card or superhero might make a child feel?
- What's one way you showed empathy through your artwork?
- How did this experience change how you think about the role of art in the world?



STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- Organize message-writing workshops
- Serve as donation coordinator to communicate with hospital staff
- Design posters or flyers to raise awareness of the project in the school
- Lead class reflection or gratitude circle after the project

SERVICE LEARNING COMPONENT:

This project uses student creativity to serve and uplift others. Students experience the emotional power of art and witness how small gestures can have a lasting impact on someone else's life.

EXTENSIONS:

- Digital Component: Turn superhero characters into short animations or comics.
- Schoolwide Drive: Invite classmates to contribute handmade cards.
- Interactive Display: Before delivering, create a classroom display of superheroes and messages.