

Love's Creative SPARKS!

Love's Creative SPARKS! is asking students across the state to brainstorm ways they could make their community more creative. The students with ideas that are determined to be the most innovative will receive cash awards, the Love's Creative SPARKS! Awards, that will serve as seed funds to implement their ideas.

In these four lessons, classroom activities will be suggested allowing students to use collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and communication to move from idea to implementation. When people come together with a common interest, a community is created.

Lesson 1:

What is community to you?

Community can mean various things to different people. It is commonly described as a group of people living in the same place or a group of people sharing common attitudes, interests and goals. Lesson one will focus on working in a partnership through a creative exercise, focusing on developing a creative community. Subsequent lessons will allow students to continue working on their idea for their creative community and result in one final project.

Activity Focus: Collaboration

Materials Needed:

- Poster board (or other large paper medium)
- Markers
- Several magazines
- Scissors
- Glue

Overview: For this activity, students will work in pairs. After a discussion of what a creative community means to them, they will use the materials to create a collage focusing on creative words and pictures representing their ideas.

Steps:

1. Get into pairs.
2. Before you start, have a discussion about what a creative community is to the two of you, what makes a

community creative, and what you might see in a community that is creative. Come up with ideas you both agree on, so that your poster represents collaboration between the two of you. Think about places you have traveled to or seen on TV. What things compose a strong, creative community that encourages and welcomes the arts and new ideas and solutions to problems in the community?

3. Using the materials you have gathered, create a collage that represents an ideal creative community to both of you. Find pictures and words in the magazines that speak to the original concept that you discussed. Glue them in an artistic composition; use all of your space; think about where the viewer's eye is led, and be creative and thoughtful with placement of your cutouts.

When your collage has dried, turn it over. Write a paragraph (6-8 sentences) describing how and why your poster represents an ideal creative community to the two of you.

Make sure your paragraph has a thesis (claim) with evidence to prove it.

Pay attention to the ideas that seem most important to you. We will work with them more in the next lesson.