

ARTS INTEGRATION Collaboration Guide

Keeping in mind that no two collaborative efforts for an arts integration lesson will “look” the same, I’ve created a sample step-by-step guide that is a great place to start.

STEP 01 Quick conversation in passing, in the hall between classes, at the mailboxes, by the copy machine, or via text/email. Non-arts content teacher may say, “Hey, I have a unit coming up on Human Rights and thought it would work well for an arts integrated lesson. Do you have any ideas?” Arts teacher responds, “Yes! That sounds great! Let me think about it and get back to you! Do you know what discipline you want to integrate? Visual arts, music, theatre or dance?”

STEP 02 Arts teacher completes some research on the topic and brainstorms potential lesson ideas

STEP 03 Arts teacher emails/texts the non-arts teacher to set up a time for a quick conversation. Arts teacher sends the non-arts content teacher the Pre-Planning Guide to complete before their meeting.

STEP 04 The two teachers bring their completed Pre-Planning Guides and meet to finalize the lesson idea. The arts teacher also brings the Collaborative Planning Guide to help guide their conversation. They also make sure to discuss the non-arts and arts standards that will be integrated throughout the lesson. The arts teacher sends the non-arts teacher a Google Doc of the arts integration lesson plan template that they can start working on together.

STEP 05 Teachers collaboratively create the lesson plan via Google Docs. Teachers also have brief conversations via email, text, and/or face-to-face as needed. This step can take as much time as needed as both teachers listen and communicate how to best align the selected standards.

STEP 06 Once the lesson plan is well on its way, the teachers meet briefly to discuss the assessments that will be used (diagnostic, formative, and summative).

STEP 07 One of the teachers shares a Google Doc that they can use to collaboratively draft the assessment pieces that they will need. Both teachers discuss the assessment pieces (rubrics, checklists, continuum, etc.) that will be used. Reminder: include the standards that are being assessed on each assessment piece!

STEP 08 Co-teach the arts integrated lesson as time permits. If the teachers cannot be together for all classes, think about having the teachers together for one period to roll out the lesson. Remember that it is the selected standards that are being taught, so focus on those aligned art and non-art standards.

STEP 09 Complete the lesson reflection questions as soon as the lesson has been delivered, as this will help you to think about how the arts integrated lesson went, as well as plan for future iterations of this lesson. Ideally, both teachers should complete this together.

REMEMBER

Remember - think differentiated collaboration. You may jump from Step 1 to Step 3 to Step 5 and that’s okay! What matters most is how you begin the journey and what your students gain at the end of it! And, don’t forget to celebrate your success in collaborating, as it will lead to your next collaboration for arts integration!