

# Visual Arts Careers: Classroom Lesson Plan

## Lesson Topic:

Exploring Visual Arts Careers

## Lesson Objective:

Students will be able to name careers in the visual arts field and list their associated responsibilities.

## Materials:

- Books, magazines, and/or the internet
- Projector or other method to watch the movie

## Advanced Preparation:

- [Preview the video](#) before sharing it with your students [1:38].
- Gather appropriate books, magazines, or devices with internet access.

## Warm-up Activity:

1. Ask students to tell what they know about the phrase “visual arts.”
2. After explaining what is meant by visual arts (e.g., artistic activity involving the act of telling stories through things we can see such as photography, art, videos and movies), help them understand that there are a variety of careers within this field that all require creativity and the ability to share ideas and feelings with others.
3. Have students name people they know personally or who they have heard of who have careers as visual artists.

**View the Video: "Visual Arts Careers"**

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "Visual Arts Careers".
2. Explain that the video presents role models talking about why the field of visual arts is a good career choice.
3. Tell students that, as they view the video, they should listen for reasons the visual artists believe that they should consider visual arts as a career.
4. View the video together.
5. View the video again; this time, invite students to formulate questions or comments about the ideas discussed in the video and to be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.

**Video Follow-up:**

1. Ask students to offer their questions, comments, reactions and responses to the video.
2. Invite students to note specific things they learned about the different visual arts careers featured in the video and to reflect upon their observations (e.g., "I liked when one role model said that women should consider a career in television and film because a lot of the time authentic women's voices aren't heard.")
3. Have students tell about the types of visual arts careers they think they might enjoy learning more about and why.
4. Select one popular career and model writing a career description and a list of the associated responsibilities.
5. Have each student select 2–3 visual arts careers that they are interested in. Provide books, magazines, and/or the internet for students to use for research purposes. For each career, students



should write a description of the type of work required and create a list of the associated responsibilities.

6. Pair students up and have the pairs discuss the careers they selected and the responsibilities associated with each career.
7. Have students make a list of the pros and cons of developing a career as a visual artist. This list can become a living document that students add to as they learn more about visual arts careers from further research, discussions with parents and/or friends, homework assignments, etc.

**Extension Activities:**

1. Use the “Related Questions to Explore” as discussion springboards or writing prompts to help students further explore careers in the visual arts.
2. Visit the library to secure background information about artists who live(d) and work(ed) in your city or town, as well as those who are currently popular. You can also request recommendations for short biographies or summaries about visual artists aimed at your students’ age group.
3. Have students research and learn about other types of visual arts careers not included in the video and list some possible benefits of working in each one. Have students explain why they would or would not want to work in each one.
4. Invite one or more visual artists to your classroom so they may talk about their careers. Have students prepare questions to pose to your visitors.

**Related Questions to Explore:**

- What is a photography curator and what kind of work do they do?
- How it is possible to use artwork to tell a story?
- How would you feel if your artwork was on display for all to see? Explain your answer.
- What does it mean when we talk about someone’s “authentic voice?”
- How is being a visual artist like being a magician?
- Besides exploring the Career Girls website, what are some other ways you can learn more about career possibilities as a visual artist?



## Ideas for Future Lessons/Activities Related to Careers in the Visual Arts:

1. Conducting and Recording Interviews with Real Life Inspiring Women in the Visual Arts Field
2. Technology in the Visual Arts: iMovie, Recording Studio, Illustrator, and Photoshop
3. Working Together: Creating a Class Mural from Conception to Display
4. Peeking Behind the Scenes of an Art Museum: Putting Together a Collection
5. Literature-Based Learning: Comparing a Novel to its Movie Adaptation
6. In-Depth Individual Research: Following the Life of a Famous Visual Artist from Birth to the Present
7. Exploring Visual Arts Mediums: Studios, Museums, Galleries, and Parks