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Pedagogical Reflection

Assignment 2: GIF Project

**Studio Reflection:**

During the studio practice for this pedagogical activity I learnt how to use Photoshop to make a GIF. I used to always be intimidated by Photoshop, because I used to think it was complicated, however after practicing a few times and reading the detailed instructions I have managed to feel comfortable using that software. I am even considering using Photoshop for my future projects. I decided to create a GIF animation by drawing 32 different drawings in the traditional way. The story for my give was a simple idea, which was a tree growing and becoming alive and walking away from the scene. The challenge was to make this story a loop, and I decided to have the tree walk away from the scene and disappear and as it did so to have one of its flowers fall to the area where it originally was, which would become the seed that would make another tree grow the next day. Each tree growth occurred over 24 hours, which is way I grew the cycle of the sun and moon to match the growth of the tree.

When teaching this lesson to students I would first give them time to design a storyboard. They would have to imagine a GIF that would work well as a loop, and there story would have to be original and creative. Once they have their idea, I would teach a lesson where they would draw approximately 30 drawings using tracing paper, so that they would have a constant background. For my own Gif I did not use tracing paper, instead I used my eye, which I have come to regret for it causes my GIF to be a little shaky. It took longer for me to have to remake each background as each of my frames was a unique drawing. To save my students time I would have them use the tracing paper. I would then teach a lesson to explain to them how to use the computer and make a stable background, which is something I have yet to learn. After teaching them all this, I would gather the together and we would all view everyone’s GIF together.

**Lesson Objective:**

-Students will be able to create a silent animation using Photoshop techniques

-Students will effectively be able to show motion through animation.

-Students will come up with a script for their animation and develop a unique story that can flow continuously as a loop.

-Mainly, this lesson will teach students about editing their work on computer software, and how to bring life to their drawings through simple photo manipulation and by using GIFS.

**MELS Curriculum Competencies Addressed:**

Competency 1: Creates Personal Images

-Students will be able to design their own original idea in the form of a drawing either in the traditional way, or using a computer.

Competency 2: Creates Media Images

-Students will be able to use tools, such as Photoshop to design their own GIF animation. Students will also be able to manipulate a camera to photograph there drawings, if they choose to do the traditional drawing.

Competency 3: Appreciate works of art and cultural objects from the world’s artistic heritage, personal images and media images.

-Students will examine the objects in their environment, and find inspiration within their environment or from other artists. Students will gain an understanding of the amount of work that goes behind the creation of each GIF and thus become more appreciative of these works. They will also discuss their final product with their peers and learn to appreciate the works of art of others.

*Cross Curricular Competencies:*

1. To use information, by consorting books and websites to help come up with a basic idea of how to draw an animation that has a good story and flows well as a loop.
2. To solve problems: students will learn how to transform the end of their animation into the beginning, to form a loop with their story.
3. To exercise critical judgement: Students would have to think critically about how they are going to apply motion to their art.
4. To communicate appropriately: To be able to clearly show a story with their GIF. To learn how to organize their ideas to create a narrative.

**Questions of Inquiry**

-How can you transform a simple image into a small animation?

-How can you make the end of your animation transition into the beginning?

-Who is the main character or subject of your GIF?

**Vocabulary:**

Animation: A technique of photographing two-dimensional drawings or the position of three-dimensional objects like puppets to create an illusion of movement as a film shown in sequence.

Background: A flat setting for a moving character in an animated film, usually an artwork.

GIF: a technique for formatting images that supports both animated and static images.

Loop: A structure, series or process that has an end that links to the beginning.

Frame: An individual still picture on a strip of film.

Photoshop: Image-editing software, which can be used when creating animations.

Script: the written story of a film.

**Storyboard:** A sequence of drawings, typically with some directions and dialogue, representing the shots planned for a movie or television production

**Materials:**

-White paper

-Pencil or marker

-Photoshop

-Access to a computer

-A camera

-Tracing paper

-Internet connection

**Resources:**

Gizmodo: <http://gizmodo.com/5941436/how-to-make-a-gif-in-five-easy-steps>

WikiHow: <http://www.wikihow.com/Create-Animated-GIFs-Using-Photoshop>

Main Media: <http://www.mainemedia.edu/workshops/young-artists/young-animators?gclid=CLWJ6tLbjsECFWqCMgodciUAZw>

QEP and the MELS website: <http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/sections/programmeFormation/primaire/>

Kids World: <http://www.kidsworldfun.com/animated_stories_01.php>

Highlights Kids: <http://www.highlightskids.com/story-player>

**Assessment:**

Students will be marked on the quality of their GIF. The Gif would need to have 30 or more images ideally. However, if I were to teach this lesson to children I would go with 15 images. They will also be marked on the originality of their idea and their concept. Also whether or not their GIF forms a continuous loop.

**Rationale:**

To communicate the important of this lesson to the school principal I would tell them that it is important in today’s modern world to be able to make use of modern technologies. Students need to know how to properly use the tools that are available to them, and many people are often intimidated by software’s like Photoshop. I would also a lesson plan structure such as this one:

Day 1: create your idea and main background

Day 2: Draw your 30 frames

Day 3: Use the computer to create your GIF