

Narrative Necklace

Sue Anne McCoy (adapted from Debi West)

Materials:

Glue sticks

Chipboard, cardboard, mat scrapes or laminate samples

Magazines

Scissors

String (I like jute)

This is a great lesson to use at any grade level to get to know your kids and build their confidence and get them making art right away! Great for beginning of school, semester or new classes; can be used for gift giving as well.

Step 1: Brainstorm

Have students fill out the Think sheet, then think about what kind of imagery you could use to visually communicate each answer.

Step 2: Look at examples

Show some examples of jewelry throughout the ages. This is a great time to show different cultures and how men and women wore jewelry. Show a variety of necklaces, pendants, dog tags and other pieces that people have worn at different times and places.

Honing in on the dog tags usually gets the boys excited when they realize these tags represent someone's identity, it is amazing how many wanted to wear theirs

Step 3: Collect Collage Materials

After the class discussion, explain that collage is like "drawing" with images and symbols. Do a quick demo of how to search for imagery by tearing /cutting images, symbols, colors, textures, words or letters or numbers from magazines.

I made one myself and explained why I chose the images on my own necklace.

Give them a whole class period to collect images, explain that they will need lots to choose from as they will need to overlap images to create a nice composition.

Have them store their images in an envelope for safe keeping.

Step 4: Cut and Compose

Have students neatly trim their images and arrange into a visual narrative to showcase who they are. Remind them neatness counts and it's helpful to arrange several times before gluing anything down.

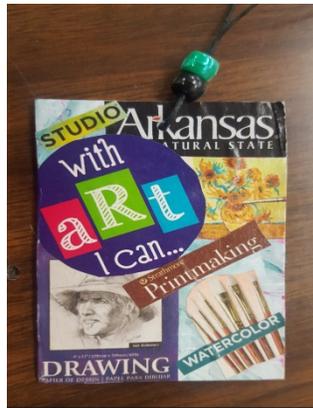
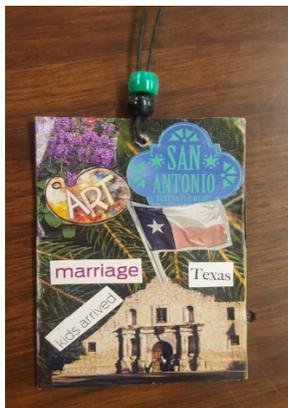
Step 5: Create the pendants

I use 2.5 x3.5 pieces of chipboard. You can also use mat board scrapes or small laminate tiles if you can find a hardware store that will give you samples!

Glue down with stick glue on both sides. Punch hole in the center of the pendant with an awl or and Icepick. Then provide various string, jute or chain . Encourage them to embellish with beads or any cool thing you have around (sequins, small acrylic jewels, broken jewelry that is flat. Glue down any heavy pieces with tacky glue. When stringing have them put both sides of the string through the beads

Add Finishing touches and Seal

I used multi-media varnish to seal, mod podge also work well. Paint the sealer on after they have put the string on and you can hang to dry!



NARRATIVE NECKLACE

Think Sheet

Answer the questions below. Then think about what kind of imagery you could use to visually communicate each answer.

What is your favorite color?	What classes do you enjoy?	What is your favorite food?
What do you like to do in your free time?	What is your favorite thing to do on the weekend?	What are you talented at?
How would others describe you?	Do you have a favorite sport? What is it?	Are you involved in any after-school activities?
What is your biggest dream?	What is your favorite place to be?	What is your favorite book?
What kind of music do you like to listen to?	What is something surprising about you?	What else should I know about you?