

Cumulative Project: Principles of Design Portfolio

Teacher Guide: Grade 9 & 10

Overview



After completing the course on the principles of design, including videos, challenges, and check ins, students will complete this cumulative project to reflect on the elements and principles of design and their artwork. Students will create a **photography portfolio** to highlight their best photographs and reflect on their experience in this course. For each chosen photo, students will complete a set of questions and include this reflection in an oral or written format embedded throughout the portfolio. For at least one of the photos that students choose to include in their portfolio, they should make a connection to a **social justice issue** of choice (i.e. global warming, animal extinction, pollution, invasive species, etc). This cumulative project can be marked and go towards the students' visual art grade. Teachers are welcome to modify this project based on what works best for their class.

Curriculum Connections



This project addresses the fundamental concepts of the grade 9 and 10 Visual Arts Curriculum by asking students to demonstrate their understanding of all of the principles of design, create an art portfolio, and reflect on their experience. Students will also use the critical analysis process to analyze, discuss, and interpret their own work. For a full breakdown of curriculum connections please visit [Focus on Nature Online's curriculum connection page](#).

Project Outline



1. Students compile their favourite photos from each lesson's photo challenge demonstrating the principles of design.
2. Co-construct success criteria with students (see example below).
3. Students choose the final portfolio format. Students can choose to create a video, hard copy, infographic, slideshow, website, or any other teacher-approved final product.
4. Students select **1-2 photos** for each principle of design and answer the following questions for each photo in an **oral** or **written** format embedded in the portfolio:
 - What is the main principle of design in the photo?
 - How are the elements of design used to create the principle?
 - What composition techniques did you use to create a great photograph?
 - Are there any social justice themes or connections to be made?
 - What emotions/feelings are created while viewing the photograph?
5. Students present and share photography portfolios with the class. Ask students to share the strengths of their classmates' photography and presentation.
6. Students share with the whole class or in a small group using the following reflection questions to guide the discussion:
 - Did you see any common themes in the photos students took? For example, did students take photos of similar subjects or use similar techniques?
 - After viewing your classmates' portfolios do you have any ideas on how art promotes environmental stewardship? What other art forms may aid in environmental awareness?
 - How has this course and portfolio project impacted or changed your perspective of nature? Do you view things differently?
 - What was a highlight or challenge of participating in this course? How have your photography or art skills improved?

Sample Success Criteria



The following "I can statements" are provided as examples to demonstrate student success:

1. Take quality photographs
2. Apply the elements and principles of design
3. Identify the main principles and elements of design in photographs
4. Make connections between photography experience and a social justice issue of choice
5. Organize photos into a portfolio
6. Self-reflect and participate in peer discussions