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Teaching Tips

Resources for Teaching Artists

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### Teaching Tips

Annie Buckley

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*I enjoyed the ability to discuss art in a deeper sense, to do more than simply decide if something is good or not.*

—Participant, California Institution, Los Angeles County (LAC - A)

## Teaching Tips

- Always encourage questions and always foster a respectful classroom climate where everyone feels welcome to ask for clarification and to share their work.
- Repeat key points in different ways, using clear descriptions and checking for understanding. In addition to asking questions, you can ask participants to explain a key point or instruction in their own words to support learning.
- Keep in mind the 4 key Learning Modalities: Visual, Auditory, Tactile and Kinesthetic but do not let them define how you teach. Not everyone will neatly fall into one of these categorical boxes. Try to have lessons that appeal to all of the senses and to all learning styles. If you notice a participant struggling with a particular lesson, have a conversation and change your approach.
- Work with team and participants to create a positive climate in the group and class, where participants can come and feel welcome, valued, and supported.
- Resources are valuable everyone and never more so than in a prison. Be conscious of your supplies. There should be enough for everyone but you should also be aware of what and how many are distributed so you can collect them.
- Readings and handouts are often valued as books are often in scarce supply. Use them wisely and ensure that the material is clear and well organized with visuals to support the text. (All handouts must be cleared with your Site Lead.)
- Your class will have varied range experience. Regardless of the wide range of ability, scholarship, and artistic background within your participant group, remember that every participant is a learner with valuable input to contribute.
- Do not make assumptions about what someone knows or use sarcasm ever. Keep your explanations clear and use neutral language as much as possible.
- It is totally appropriate — and encouraged — to introduce complex ideas and new vocabulary in facilitating art classes, but do so in an inclusive way that supports learning for everyone, despite artistic or education background.