

I. Introduction

A. Please take out a utensil & draw a small flower in the corner of a piece of paper (explain later)

B. I took art classes throughout HS and minor here in it- passionate about art & education

C. Art is important to keep in the education systems, especially during the elementary and secondary school years. It should not be the first program that is cut when budget is tight.

D. There are objections to this idea, some of which you may be thinking now. I will identify and refute a few of these such as that students don't need to learn art, that art is unable to be graded fairly, and that there are no jobs for people who study art anyway.

To the first automatic response some of you may have...

II. Students don't need to learn art

A. Easy, empty excuse to feel less guilty about cutting art programs, needed for many reasons

B. Hard scientific data and research as well as the credible opinion of teachers & students

C. Evidence

1. Scientific data supports that art activates neurons in your brain
2. Brain activation shows how kids comprehend topics w/ visualization processes used in art
 - a. Process of visualizing and interpreting own language
 - b. Art can help promote/expose kids to knowledge of language, literacy, & math
3. Art also allows students to communicate and understand complex social ideas

Your next thought is probably along the lines of "I am not good at art so it is not fair to be graded on it"...

III. Art is unable to be graded fairly because of the range of natural talent

A. Can't the same be said for math, science, english or really any subject taught in school?

B. Art techniques are taught as other subjects can be, just requires a different type of learning

C. There is a balance to appreciating both STEM & art, which needs to be found in education

D. Evidence

1. How art is taught - shapes, shadows, technology, and technique- not just talent
2. Graded on effort, creativity, efficiency of message being conveyed Most have student led critiques- allow for input, new ideas, constructive criticism

Now you may be slightly convinced that art is great in an educational setting, but what about after?

IV. There are no jobs in it so what is the point anyway?

- A. Just going to say this bluntly- there are many jobs & life skills involving aspects taught in art.
- B. From being an art teacher to working in a gallery to things within business, biology, etc.
- C. Evidence
 1. Art Careers: Educators, Artists, Curators/ Gallery Exhibitionist, Architects
 2. Other Careers: Anatomy drawers, Researchers, Paleontology, Advertisers, Engineers
 3. Art education and skills translating to real life

Hopefully, you have at least come to understand my point of view as an art student and why...

V. Closing

- A. Art programs are necessary in children's education at the elementary & secondary levels
- B. Students do need to learn art in order to understand concepts and integrate subjects, Art techniques are learnable and allow for creative development, and there are many jobs that require that type of creativity and skills gained in the study of art
- C. When you drew that flower earlier it was an example of the evidence that art is needed in education- process of conceptualization, use of shapes & shadows to express ideas in drawing, creativity
 1. Notice how you are visualizing your own understanding of a flower
 2. Each drawing was done uniquely (diff. design, interpretation, shapes, shading)- beauty
- D. Art Education is a necessary program in schools, not something to just throw away because some may not be good at it. I can't throw away math so others should not be able to take my art.