

Instructional Unit Title: Bottle Caps to Old Shoes

The teacher may bring in a list and/or images of commonly used metaphors so that students can identify how figurative language, specifically metaphors, can change the literal meaning of words.



The teacher will provide students with images using visual metaphor for rhetorical purposes so that students can compare and contrast how images elucidate meaning in metaphors.



The teacher may provide a variety of found objects so that students can brainstorm how physical objects/materials can be combined and presented in ways (like word pairs) to change their use/function and create new meaning/visual metaphors.



To give simple visual metaphor a broader context in three-dimensional art, the teacher may provide images of three-dimensional art work (e.g., Lucas Samaras, Man Ray, Marcel Duchamp, Louise Nevelson, Joseph Cornell, Rebeca Trevino, Joseph Bueys, Martin Sanchez) so that students can examine how visual metaphor involves manipulation-- through juxtaposition-- of physical reality to create meaning in art work.



The teacher will present sketches, notes and other plans used by assemblage/found object sculptors so that students can make connections between artistic intent/purpose and planning/execution.



PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: The principal of this school is very interested in helping students recognize and not take for granted the materials and items used within the school environment. The principal has asked your class to take the discarded and/or ordinary objects and materials and use them in ways that gives them unique meanings; ways that help the students see and contemplate these materials/objects anew. You decide to collect discarded items within the school environment that you find over a three-week time span. Your goal is to create a sculpture that gives new meaning to these materials; you want the viewer to forget the original purpose/use of the items used to create your art work. To evaluate the extent to which you have achieved this goal, you will ask your fellow students to offer titles (anonymously) to the sculpture you create when you present the work to the school.

This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students. To see the entire instructional unit sample with possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunitsamples>.