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Exploring the World through Humanities

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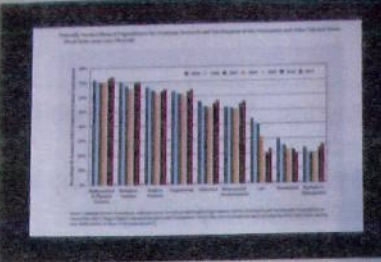
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Exploring the World through the Humanities

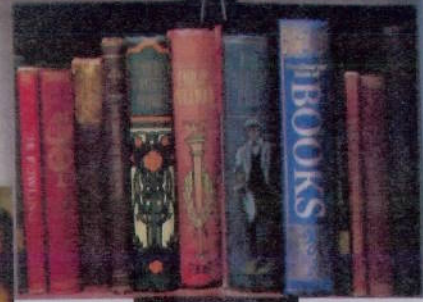
"A student can learn so much more about a period of history by studying an example of literature, a piece of art or a character from the period, rather than just memorizing dates."

— Neil Gaiman, *The Graveyard Book*

Engaging Humanities through Art



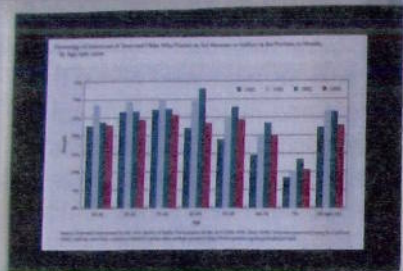
Spending for STEAM in Tennessee



Literature



Religion



Decline in Participation in the Arts



Landscape



Classics



The Arts



Culture



Architecture



Language



History



Critical & Creative Thinking - Science



Sustainability



Beauty Will Save the World - Domestic



Clash of Civilizations

<p>The quote by Dr. Bryan Wolfe of Stanford's Humanities Department best summarizes my thesis for the poster that learning through the Arts lends itself to deeper understanding of the subject by giving the subject greater relevance and context.</p>	<p>These statistics were drawn from the American Academy of Arts & Sciences report <i>The Heart of the Matter</i>. They illustrate how the funding for Humanities is decidedly less than the funding for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.</p>	<p>Literature: Embracing literature through plays, song and poetry brings the writing off the page and into real life.</p>	<p>Religion: Imagine if Religion were taught through the study of stained glass windows and artwork found in the Cathedrals, Temples and Mosques from around the world.</p>
<p>This statistic was included in the National Endowment for the Arts, Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (1982, 1992, 2002, 2008). Without public support of the Art Museums and Galleries what will become of the collections? How will our lives be enriched and cultural understanding encouraged?</p>	<p>Language: Learning a language through travel is a wonderful experience. Another fun way to learn a language is by creating drawings of graphic novels.</p>	<p>Classics: Teaching through the Socratic method of open questioning is a challenging and interactive way of asking existential questions and developing an understanding of Western Civilization.</p>	<p>The Arts: Music is known to improve cognitive abilities. Natalie Cole said in an interview that she learned Spanish by singing Spanish songs with her father, Nat King Cole.</p>
<p>Culture: Embracing our commonalities and differences leads to greater understanding and appreciation of another culture. If we do not learn about other cultures our world view will be limited and skewed. "...introduce students to the histories and cultures of all peoples, from recently arriving immigrants to strangers who live half a world away." American Academy of Arts & Sciences, <i>The Heart of the Matter</i>, 2013.</p>	<p>Architecture: Did you know Frank Lloyd Wright designed the Guggenheim Museum? It was greatly criticized as not an ideal venue in which to display art. Have you visited the Guggenheim museum and do you think the criticism is valid?</p>	<p>Jurisprudence: Examining case studies through re-enactment delves deeply into the intricacies of law and the legal system. Critical thinking skills related to Jurisprudence include: Finding analogies and relationships; determining relevance and validity, and finding and evaluating solutions to problems. Framing tasks using the skills above, will prepare students for skills needed in real life.</p>	<p>History: A great deal about the culture and history of Italy can be learned through Italian Film studies courses. This video is remarkable in that it beautifully illustrates the role of the cinema during the 40's & 50's and the transition in what was acceptable viewing of the time. In the 40's the village Priest would view and edit the film for any questionable scenes, e.g. kissing.</p>
<p>Critical & Creative Thinking = Direction Research clearly demonstrates that studying Humanities through the Arts enhances Critical and Creative thinking. The arts also lend relevance and context to the subjects studied. "Critical thinking in the classroom is facilitated by a physical and intellectual environment that encourages a spirit of discovery." Keefe & Walberg, (1992) Teaching for thinking. "...actively involve students in new ways of looking, thinking, and questions, encourage new ones, and consider ways to actively involve students in new way of looking, thinking and creating,..." Art 21.org, contemporary-approaches to teaching.</p>	<p>Sustainability: Butterflies and many creatures, as well as plants, are becoming extinct on earth. We are losing thousands of acres of rainforest everyday due to development. What can be done to improve sustainability? How can you help? By encouraging respect for other cultures, we encourage, "That mutual respect makes it possible for people around the world to work together to address issues such as environmental sustainability and global health challenges."</p>	<p>Beauty will save the world: I first encountered this quote in Pope John Paul II's Letter to Artists where he implores us to show the world the way of truth and beauty. "Society needs artists, just as it needs scientists, technicians, workers, professional people, witnesses of the faith, teachers, fathers and mothers, who ensure the growth of the person and the development of the community by means of that supreme art form which is 'the art of education'." Pope John Paul II.</p>	<p>Clash of Civilizations: Without the Humanities to help us develop cultural understanding and empathy of one another we will view each other with fear, or as monsters, or warriors. The consequences will be a loss of innocence and hopes and dreams as indicated by Snow White and the Fairy figures. We need to create capable citizens of the world who are prepared for the Global 21st century.</p>