



3-4 Colorado Visual Arts standards explained

Colorado State Visual Arts Standards K-12

1. Observe and Learn to Comprehend
2. Envision and Critique to Reflect
3. Invent and Discover to Create
4. Relate and Connect to Transfer

The Colorado State Standards in the Visual Arts contain the 4 standards in the table above for grades K-12. They become increasingly more detailed and advanced as students develop and grow from one grade to the next.

Standard 1 for 3-4 is about looking at artworks and determining meaning in them. Students will use art and design principles (line, shape, color, form, texture, value, space, balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm and unity) to determine meaning and describe it while looking at 2D and 3D pieces of art. Students can recognize that works of art have intent and purpose and describe this. Students understand that artworks can express different points of view and they can look at art and describe these viewpoints. Students can talk about artwork and respond to what they see using inference and empathy.

Standard 2 for 3-4 is about looking at artwork, critiquing it and personally reflecting. Students can use specific art vocabulary to respond to their own art and the art of others. Students can discover the meaning of an artwork based on art and design principles (outlined in standard 1). Students can talk about a piece of artwork and judge it based on a specific set of criteria, such as technique, craftsmanship, use of color to convey a mood, etc.

Standard 3 for 3-4 is about creating artwork. Students use basic media to express ideas through the art-making process. Students demonstrate the use of materials and processes in traditional, unique, and inventive ways while creating their own art.

Standard 4 for 3-4 is about making connections. Students can connect individual ideas to describe the meaning of works of art either while looking at their own artwork or the art of

others. Students can also make personal meaning in works of art. Students can recognize that historical and cultural ideas are evident in works of art. Students can look at art and interpret the historical time period and cultural setting in the piece of art.

Hilary Forsyth
Art Director
Aspen Community School