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The Art of Integration

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Abstract

As a result of the influence of and focus on standardized tests, scheduling conflicts, and lack of funding, more and more students are being denied arts education in the United States of America. However, different bodies of research showed discrepancy about the affects integrating various art programs into the classroom and class activities influences the students test scores, environments, and overall education experience. The first purpose of this study is to determine the benefits of arts education on classroom environment and students' achievement. The second purpose is to examine how teachers integrate arts into their classrooms. Therefore, this study will address two research questions: (1) How do students' benefit from arts education? and (2) How do teachers integrate arts into their academic curricula? In order to collect data, we will individually interview teachers from California elementary schools (kindergarten through fifth grade). Furthermore, a survey will be given to teachers and principals in California elementary schools regarding the influence and integration of arts education. We anticipate the results will indicate that students' benefit in their personal success, educational achievement, and allow them too critically and creatively look at the world around them. Also, we anticipate that teachers will indicate that they have a difficult time implementing arts into the classroom because of scheduling conflicts and a larger focus of standardized tests, but will additionally show the importance of arts education on their students'.