

Reflection on teaching Visual Studies:

5th year visual studies - Today's World

For placement I was teaching my 5th year class section Today's World in visual studies. This unit was based on the exhibition 'Take a breath' held in the Irish museum of modern art. The students had gone to the exhibition with their host teachers before placement. I had not taught the Today's World section of visual studies, so I was hesitant and excited to broach this topic. Before placement I had gone to the exhibition to experience it myself, this allowed me to gather photos and my own personal opinion of the artwork and to decide which would be the best to learn with the students. Basing the context of the learning on an exhibition was great, as this was something the students had already experienced and could visualise, as well as allowing me an anchor to gather my research for planning this unit of learning.

For this placement, I branched out different ways and activities to implement the learning, such as compare and contrast, debates and discussion etc. I found I had developed certain activities and methods that I will implement in my teaching in the future. I had a student in class, who had English as her second language and had very little of it and she was extremely shy. This pushed me to find new methods that helped include her in class and develop her learning, from world banks and creating translation booklets catered for each lesson and presentation content. While it was sometimes difficult it was highly rewarding.

Overall, I had enjoyed this unit of learning and I had found that I really pushed myself and developed new methods and activities to really implement the learning, especially in ways that are inclusive as traditionally this class very study and text heavy.