

Identity Swap Lesson Resource

Overview

This lesson is designed for both students and teachers to explore the concept of artistic identity through peer collaboration and reflection.

Over two lessons, students will examine how artists express their identity, swap perspectives with peers, and link these insights to their own artistic practice.

Lesson #01

Artist Case Study: How Artists Build Their Identity

Objective

Understand how artists communicate identity through their work and engage in a peer-based "Identity Swap" activity.

Beginning (20 min) – Artist Case Study Discussion

Discuss how artists such as Frida Kahlo, Van Gogh, and Jean-Michel Basquiat express their personal identities.

Analyze their use of style, color, symbolism, and subject matter to represent emotion, heritage, and individuality.

Middle (50 min) – Identity Swap Activity

Pair up with a classmate.

Share your theme or concept — what your artwork or current idea is about.

Your partner will write or sketch directly in your sketchbook about how they perceive your theme and artistic identity.

Swap back and reflect: How did your partner interpret your idea? Do they see something you didn't realize about yourself or your work?

Add short written or visual reflections based on what you discovered.

End (15 min) – Quick Share

Invite 2–3 students to share what they discovered from their partner's perspective.

Discuss how seeing your identity through someone else's eyes can influence your future artistic choices.

Lesson #02

Studio Work: Linking Case Study to Your Own Practice

Objective

Apply insights from the artist case studies and peer reflections to strengthen your own artistic identity.

Beginning (10 min) – Review

- Review key ideas from the previous lesson.
- How do artists' themes connect to your own art-making journey?
- What similarities or differences do you notice?

Middle (60 min) – Sketchbook Stations

Rotate every 10–12 minutes between four creative stations:

1. Quick Sketch – Create a fast drawing inspired by one of the artists studied.
2. New Medium Experiment – Try a new technique or medium connected to your theme.
3. Pair-Doodle – Share one sketchbook page with a peer and co-create an image.
4. Keyword Exchange – Write five words that summarize your theme. Swap with a partner – they must create a visual response to your keywords.

End (15 min) – Class Reflection

- Discuss: Which station challenged you the most?
- What did you learn about your own identity as an artist through collaboration?
- Which experiment or feedback might influence your next project?

Reflection Goal

Through these activities, students discover that identity in art is not fixed – it evolves through dialogue, experimentation, and perspective.

By swapping interpretations and collaborating, artists can gain new insights into how others perceive their creative voice and how to strengthen their personal narrative through art.