

12-10-2014

Theater Education Through the Common Core

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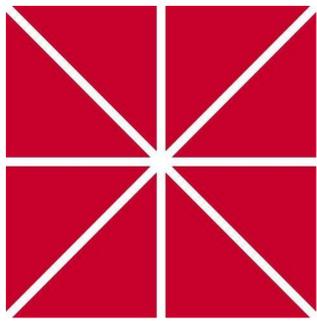
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Recommended Citation

Nease, Brandon, "Theater Education Through the Common Core" (2014). *Student Research Day Abstracts and Posters*. Paper 19.
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Theater Education Through the Common Core

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The Project

As school budgets have plummeted, one of the extra curriculums that has suffered by losing funding has been the theatre department (Wheeler 2007). The common core of education focuses on the four subjects of math, science, English, and history. Even though the arts as a separate subject have slowly been cut from school programs around the nation, they have become an integral part of many teacher's curriculum to aid students in understanding difficult material. For example, the plays of William Shakespeare have been utilized in the English curriculum in order to teach poetry, writing, as well as develop critical thinking skills. Upon further analysis, the many aspects of theater could be applicable to all of the common core standards.

In this project, I design a curriculum that uses aspects of the theater in order to teach all of the common core standards of English as well as math, science, and history. I shall describe a specific thematic unit that utilizes each subject and implements it in a classroom environment during a single semester of the school year.



The Process

In order to implement the subject matter needed to accommodate the common core standards, I first needed to understand the common core. The California handbooks as well as the national common core website was utilized to select the specific topics that needed to be covered in the thematic unit. When dealing with theater, I chose the areas of theater that were necessary to teach in order to have an operating production. I analyzed the similarities between production and the subjects in the common core utilizing aspects of the hidden curriculum.

The Point

After creating the common core standards I was able to analyze the effectiveness of an interdisciplinary approach to teaching theater along with the other major subjects. Although the curriculum was limited to in the aspects that coincided with common core standards, the hidden curriculum was forced to be removed. The common core placed limitations that were unneeded, however, the it allowed for discussion across multiple disciplines. Interdisciplinary studies has been proven to benefit learning, although the common core generated extra stress on the designer of the curriculum.

