

WHO WE ARE



TEACHING ARTIST: TIANA LAPOINTE

Tiana LaPointe, is an Indigenous Documentary Filmmaker and Teaching Artist. She is Sicangu Lakota and was born on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Her passion for indigenous media arts started at an early age. In high school she was led to name and co-develop, “Through the Eagles Eye” video curriculum. Tiana’s work is critical to telling a comprehensive story on indigenous water governance. She connects story and technology to the powerful images of Mother Earth.

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Participants create a 1–2-minute documentary short using their own biographies as a script.

Participants will learn technical terms and project planning. Participants will get to experience what it means to be in production, post-production and sharing their digital artwork with a large audience.

ARTISTS & PIECES OF ART INCLUDED:

- Tiana LaPointe, Ho Wakan (Sacred Voice), 11 minutes and 17 seconds and Mni Ki Wakan



- (Water is Sacred) 22 minutes and 36 seconds



- Quanisha Hill, Graduate of Washington Tech, Video 1 minute and 15 seconds.



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COMPAS PRISM PROGRAM

Lesson plans are created by COMPAS Artists. Each highlights artists and artworks from African, Latinx, Indigenous, and/or Asian communities.

LEARNING GOALS:

- Create a strong personal biography and finalize a script to be recorded using video and/or audio. Participants will become familiar with technical terms for camera compositions, angles, formal elements and principles. Participants will be trained to use a photo and video camera to capture imagery during the school day. Participants will screen their 1–2-minute documentary short.
- Why did you choose to share this lesson?
I chose this lesson because I believe it's important to empower yourself by looking within your own core values, family and community values to find unique and interesting stories. I believe if we can all mindfully and artfully share our strengths it will create a sense of community and support. Knowing who you are is important to creating any type of art.

LEARNING GOALS (CONTINUED):

- What inspires you about this activity?
What inspires me are the unique voices that have yet to be heard. I was taught that our voice is medicine, so we have to be very mindful in what we say to ourselves and others. This activity makes you take a mindful look at your own story and how you want to highlight your strengths and values.
- Why is this activity, these artists, this art important?
This activity is important because it will be a piece of the participants' history, their story and their voice. It can also be healing to feel heard and to know that your story matters.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS LESSON:

Teachers will prepare students with writing prompts for their biographies. Students can use their iPads to begin writing their biographies. I will have examples of youth artist biographies on the projector screen. They will need to print storyboards to begin their project planning.

Audio and video devices will be brought in during class to help with production. We will review rough cuts of participants videos before finalizing.

LESSON ACTIVITIES:

- Teaching Artist Introduction: Biography, Values and Work Samples
- What are values? Presentation
- How to write a biography, began rough draft
- Visual Basic Presentation and Scavenger Hunt
- Writing Your Script
- Storyboarding Your Script
- Production Terms and Communication
- Production for Final Project
- Post-Production, Editing in iMovie
- Review and Critique Rough Cuts
- Final Screening

INDICATORS OF REACHING THE LEARNING GOALS:

Participants reach out to friends and family to discuss values and family stories to help develop their biographies. Once the participants' biographies are recorded then that is a major step to completing their short film. Participants will be mindful when filming or taking photos, utilizing the technical terms learned. During production, participants will use production terms to communicate effectively. The goal of sharing their final video is a big and very courageous step and maybe the first-time participants share their artwork publicly.

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Projector/Smart Board
- Portable Speaker
- Laptop
- Adapter
- Laptop charger
- Audio recorder
- Tripod
- Video camera
- Photo camera
- Microphone

COMMUNITY THIS ACTIVITY IS DESIGNED FOR:

This activity can be used anywhere and almost at any age with mindful guidance

WHAT COULD A COMPAS TEACHING ARTIST HELP YOU ACHIEVE IN YOUR CLASSROOM?

Learn more at COMPAS.org