# Lesson 7 FINAL TOUCHES AND PRESENTATION

# **Lesson 7: Final Touches and Presentation**

#### GRADE LEVEL: HIGH SCHOOL

**DURATION: 90 MINUTES** (MAY EXTEND TO MULTIPLE SESSIONS DEPENDING ON PROGRESS)

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

Students will complete their portraits, add finishing touches, explore matting/framing options, and prepare an artist statement for exhibition or display.

#### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Students' in-progress portraits
- Finishing materials: fine brushes, blending tools, erasers, varnish/fixative spray, etc.
- Matting and framing supplies (mats, frames, tape, rulers, cutting tools) or examples of ready-to-display options
- Artist statement template or guidelines
- Reference photos and sketches (for any last-minute corrections)
- Display tags or labels for the artist's name and artwork title

#### WARM UP: REFLECTION AND GOAL-SETTING (10 MINUTES)

Goal: Ensure students are clear on their process before beginning.

#### Instructions:

- Ask students to reflect on their portraits and answer:
  - "What areas need small improvements or finishing touches?"
  - "How will I know my work is truly finished?"
- Students set personal goals for the class:
  - Examples: "I need to smooth out shadows," "I'll finalize details in the eyes," "I want to refine the background."

#### ACTIVITY 1:

#### ADDING FINISHING TOUCHES (30 MINUTES)

Goal: Apply final refinements and complete the artwork.

#### Instructions:

- Students focus on:
  - Refining details: Adding small touches to facial features, highlights, shadows, or textures.
  - Cleaning up edges: Ensuring smooth lines or blending where needed.
  - Enhancing background elements: Finalize any unfinished sections or refine visual balance.
  - Applying fixatives or varnish (optional): Secure charcoal, pencil, or pastel drawings; varnish paintings if ready.









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#### ACTIVITY 2:

#### MATTING AND FRAMING DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

Goal: Introduce professional presentation techniques for artwork.

#### Instructions:

- Show examples of matting and framing options for different mediums:
  - Matting: Clean edges, neutral tones, or complementary colors.
  - Framing: Basic black/white frames, natural wood, or other styles.
- Discuss:
  - How matting and framing enhance the presentation of the artwork.
  - The importance of choosing styles that complement the artwork's tone and style.
- If materials are available, allow students to experiment with mats or frames to see how they look.

#### ACTIVITY 3:

#### WRITING AN ARTIST STATEMENT (25 MINUTES)

Goal: Create a thoughtful artist statement to accompany the work.

#### Instructions:

- Distribute an Artist Statement Template with guiding questions:
  - Introduction: What is the title of your piece? What inspired you to create it?
  - Process: Describe the materials and techniques used. Why did you choose this approach?
  - Message or Meaning: What emotions or ideas do you want to convey?
  - Reflection: What was the most challenging or rewarding part of creating this portrait?
- Students write a draft of their artist statement (1-2 short paragraphs).
- Pair students to read and give feedback on each other's statements:
  - "What stands out about the artist's process or inspiration?"

#### ACTIVITY 4:

#### FINAL PREPARATION FOR DISPLAY (10 MINUTES)

Goal: Ensure the portrait is ready for exhibition or presentation.

#### Instructions:

- Students finalize all steps:
  - Add their artist statement to the back of the work or prepare it for display.
  - Attach matting/framing if materials are ready, or ensure the work is clean and wellpresented.
  - Label their work with their name, title of artwork, and date.
- If time allows, display the completed works around the classroom for an informal preview.







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### MODIFICATIONS FOR STUDENT NEEDS

#### FOR STUDENTS NEEDING SUPPORT:

- Provide sentence starters or a checklist for writing the artist statement.
- Allow additional time to complete details or finishing touches.
- Offer one-on-one guidance for refining areas of concern.

#### FOR ADVANCED LEARNERS:

- Encourage more complex framing or matting techniques (e.g., double matting or using nontraditional materials).
- Challenge them to write a longer artist statement that explores deeper concepts or artistic influences.

### **ENRICHMENT ADD-ONS:**

#### MOCK ART EXHIBIT:

• Organize a classroom or school-wide exhibit showcasing students' completed portraits and artist statements. Invite peers, teachers, and family members.

#### DIGITAL DISPLAY:

• Photograph completed works and create an online gallery for sharing with a wider audience.

#### ORAL PRESENTATION:

• Have students present their work and artist statement to the class, explaining their process and inspiration.

#### GUEST SPEAKER:

• Invite a local artist or gallery owner to discuss professional presentation and exhibiting techniques.





