

## IMPROVING PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES IN SCULPTURE LESSONS BASED ON MATERIAL DIVERSITY

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**ABSTRACT:** This article examines how material diversity in sculpture lessons can enhance the quality and effectiveness of practical activities. The study highlights the pedagogical benefits of using various materials, including traditional ones such as clay, gypsum, and wood, as well as modern materials like polymer and plastic. By integrating multiple materials, students develop technical skills, creativity, and artistic problem-solving abilities. This approach fosters active engagement, practical competence, and imaginative thinking, ultimately improving the overall learning outcomes in sculpture education.

**KEYWORDS:** Sculpture education, material diversity, practical activities, technical skills, creativity, pedagogical methods, artistic development, visual arts.

Sculpture lessons play a crucial role in visual arts education by developing both technical skills and creative thinking. The diversity of materials used in practical activities significantly impacts the quality of student learning and engagement. Traditional materials, such as clay, wood, and gypsum, allow students to master fundamental sculptural techniques, including shaping, carving, and detailing. Modern materials, such as polymer and plastic, provide opportunities for experimentation, innovation, and creative expression.

By employing a variety of materials, educators can design lessons that enhance both practical competence and artistic imagination. Multi-material approaches challenge students to consider the properties of different substances, apply appropriate techniques, and solve artistic problems effectively. This method not only improves manual dexterity and technical skills but also promotes creative thinking, critical reflection, and problem-solving abilities. Exploring strategies for improving practical activities through material diversity is therefore an essential focus in contemporary sculpture education.

Improving practical activities in sculpture lessons through material diversity is an essential strategy for fostering students' technical and creative development. Using a variety of materials, including traditional substances like clay, wood, and gypsum, as well as modern alternatives such as polymer and plastic, allows students to explore different textures, forms, and sculptural techniques. This diversity encourages experimentation, problem-solving, and imaginative thinking, enhancing both practical competence and artistic creativity.

Clay, one of the most commonly used traditional materials, provides students with a flexible medium to practice shaping, modeling, and volumetric composition. Working with clay allows students to manipulate form, understand proportions, and develop hand-eye coordination. By creating small figures, abstract designs, or geometric shapes, students enhance their fine motor skills and cultivate an understanding of three-dimensional space. Clay modeling also promotes iterative learning, as students refine their works through trial and error, developing critical evaluation and problem-solving abilities.

Gypsum introduces students to a firmer medium that emphasizes precision, layering, and textural detailing. Its rigidity requires careful handling and planning, which strengthens patience, attention to detail, and discipline. Students learn to consider structural stability, weight distribution, and surface finishing when working with gypsum. This process not only enhances technical skills but also promotes reflective thinking, as students analyze their work and make adjustments to achieve both functional and aesthetic goals.

Woodworking provides a unique opportunity to develop technical precision and spatial reasoning. Students learn to safely use tools such as saws, knives, and sandpaper, which cultivates careful planning, accuracy, and fine motor control. Wood allows for durable and detailed sculptures, and students must consider grain direction, structural integrity, and surface treatment. Working with wood enhances problem-solving skills and encourages students to integrate technical knowledge with artistic vision, promoting a balance between functional and aesthetic outcomes.

Modern materials, including polymer and plastic, expand the possibilities for creative experimentation. These versatile materials are lightweight and easily manipulated, allowing students to explore innovative forms, colors, and textures. By



integrating modern materials alongside traditional ones, students can create hybrid sculptures that combine multiple techniques and effects. Multi-material projects challenge students to adapt techniques for different materials, enhancing flexibility, creativity, and critical thinking.

Project-based learning is a highly effective approach for improving practical activities through material diversity. Teachers can assign projects that require students to combine different materials, apply various techniques, and solve complex design problems. For example, a sculpture may have a clay core, gypsum details, and polymer elements for color or texture. This approach encourages students to plan, execute, and critically evaluate their work while developing both technical mastery and creative thinking. Reflection and self-assessment further reinforce learning by allowing students to identify strengths, address weaknesses, and explore alternative artistic solutions.

Collaboration in multi-material projects promotes communication, teamwork, and the sharing of creative ideas. Working in groups encourages students to observe different approaches, provide constructive feedback, and learn from peers. Collaborative learning also fosters motivation and engagement, as students are inspired by their classmates' creativity and experimentation. This process strengthens both technical and artistic skills while promoting social and interpersonal competencies.

Teachers play a crucial role in guiding students through diverse material-based projects. Lessons should be carefully structured, beginning with an introduction to the properties, handling techniques, and safety requirements of each material. Guided practice helps students gain confidence in using different materials, followed by independent experimentation and creative decision-making. Individualized instruction ensures that students of varying skill levels can benefit from the multi-material approach, enhancing both technical and artistic development.

Incorporating eco-friendly and recycled materials adds an ethical dimension to practical activities. Students learn to consider environmental sustainability, evaluate material impact, and make responsible creative choices. This holistic approach combines technical, artistic, and ethical learning, fostering comprehensive skill development and preparing students for future artistic challenges.

Overall, material diversity in sculpture lessons enhances practical activities by integrating technical skills, creativity, problem-solving, and reflective thinking.



Traditional materials provide foundational techniques, modern materials encourage experimentation and innovation, and multi-material projects combine both approaches to achieve holistic artistic development. By thoughtfully designing lessons that utilize a variety of materials, teachers can maximize student engagement, improve learning outcomes, and cultivate well-rounded artistic and practical competencies.

In conclusion, improving practical activities through material diversity in sculpture lessons ensures the simultaneous development of technical skills and creative abilities. Multi-material projects, collaborative learning, reflective practice, and guided instruction promote technical mastery, artistic creativity, and critical thinking. This approach prepares students for advanced artistic endeavors, fosters imaginative problem-solving, and contributes to comprehensive growth in both practical and artistic dimensions of sculpture education.

Enhancing practical activities in sculpture lessons through material diversity significantly improves both technical and artistic development in students. Traditional materials such as clay, gypsum, and wood provide foundational skills in shaping, detailing, and understanding three-dimensional forms, while modern materials like polymer and plastic encourage creative experimentation, innovation, and imaginative expression.

Multi-material projects, reflective practice, and collaborative learning foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and artistic decision-making. Students develop technical mastery, creativity, and social skills while engaging actively in their learning process. Incorporating eco-friendly or recycled materials also promotes environmental responsibility and ethical awareness alongside artistic growth.

In summary, applying a diverse range of materials in sculpture lessons is an effective pedagogical strategy for improving practical activities. Thoughtful lesson planning, guided instruction, and multi-material projects enable students to integrate technical competence with creative thinking, preparing them for advanced artistic challenges and comprehensive development in visual arts education.

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