

## TOOLS IN TECHNOLOGY

### **LEVEL**

Level 7 – Level 8

### **ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

Using photography as a means of communication, students identify and describe simple and complex tools for different purposes. They develop an understanding of the basic principles of photo composition. Students take images with a purpose and audience in mind. They discover tools from the past and present, learn about the materials they are made from and if the tools are required in the future.

### **THEME**

- Photography
- Tools used in Technology

### **MATERIALS REQUIRED**

- Camera or mobile phone camera
- Access to a computer and printer
- Poster Paper
- Notepad
- Pens/Pencils
- Glue
- Students have access to a range of tools from the past and from today.

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Teachers create opportunities and provide access to different areas on the school ground, *Example:* access to a trade centre, workshop or maintenance facility.

Discuss how composition is the key to making all objects look interesting. As a whole group make a list of composition strategies.

#### **1. SET THE TASK**

The student's task is to photograph 10 tools that were used in the past and 10 tools that are used today. The challenge is to prove that taking photos of objects can become interesting if arranged properly. Their work needs to demonstrate a strong understanding of composition by;

- Filling the picture plane
- Establishing a focus point
- Consider the rule of thirds
- Creating variety
- Consider the lighting
- Use different filters

#### **2. CREATE**

In pairs students take images of 10 tools that were used in the past. They research each of the tools and write a description on the poster paper provided for each that includes, the materials the tool is made from, the purpose of each tool, how it is used and who invented it.

Remind students that it takes multiple shots to get a great image, so they need to be patient and edit the shots as they go.

Students then consider how they are going to present their information in a way that is interesting to the audience. They use the poster paper provided to start their creations.

Students then take 10 images of tools we use today. They can be simple tools like a potato peeler or complex tools like a car. Once all images are complete, descriptions are written for each photo and their posters are ready to submit.

### **3. SHARE AND REFLECT**

Have each of the groups share their top 4 photos to the class. Get each group to explain why they chose their photos and which composition techniques they used. Encourage other students to provide feedback on which photo they think provides the strongest composition techniques.

#### **EXTENSION ACTIVITY:**

Students showcase their photos to other audiences via a different presentation platform. *Example:* Gallery space, digital technology, Flipgrid.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR ASSESSMENT**

Completed posters and ability to share and reflect on their composition techniques in the photographs.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **COMPOSITION TECHNIQUES**

##### **FILLING THE FRAME**

For this technique, move in closer to your subject to strengthen your composition. Doing so allows the focus to fall on your subject, such as a person's facial expression, and on details that may not be readily noticeable by the naked eye. As a bonus, it will help you get rid of distracting elements in the background and may even give you interesting abstract patterns.

##### **RULE OF THIRDS**

This basic composition technique is based on the idea that placing your subjects off-center yields a stronger, more natural-looking composition and allows you to make creative use of negative space. Following the 'Rule of Thirds' also serves as the perfect opportunity (or excuse) to shoot your subjects from different angles. This will ultimately allow you to capture more unique images.

#### **FRAMING**

This type of compositional technique involves using, or adding, frame elements to emphasize and lead the viewer's eye towards your subject, or to simply add interest to your image. It can be anything from natural frames like rock formations or man-made ones like windows and tunnels.

#### **ESTABLISH A FOCAL POINT**

The easiest way to have a clear and strong composition is to keep things simple. Instead of having too much going on in the frame, keep the focus on a single subject. Use a narrow depth of field or eliminate distracting elements that may steal the limelight from your main subject.

#### **COLOUR**

Another easy photography composition technique is the use of color to create stunning photographs and strengthen the message behind your images. You can choose to include one or several bold and striking colors to make your subjects stand out. Or you can go for pastel shades for light and pretty visuals.

### **CURRICULUM LINKS**

Experiment with materials, techniques, technologies and processes in a range of art forms to express ideas, concepts and themes in artworks ([VCAVAV035](#))