

EXPRESS

This month's Social Justice Art for Teens video is all about developing the studio habit of mind - EXPRESS. That means you will be exploring the very important role of an artist around expressing particular ideas, moods, messages, opinions and thoughts around issues of social justice in your art work. Essentially, we are exploring the artist's role as a visual storyteller.

1. Choose one of these five prompts. (you can do more than one.)
2. Scroll thru this presentation to see the instructions for each prompt.
3. Develop YOUR thinking, bring your ideas to life and and take a picture of it.
4. Share your work and use the #IncineratorGallery so that other social justice art warriors can see what you've created!
5. Reflect on your explorations!

Focus

I can learn to create art works that express and convey an idea, feeling, message, personal meaning, mood and emotion connected to a social justice issue that I am passionate about.

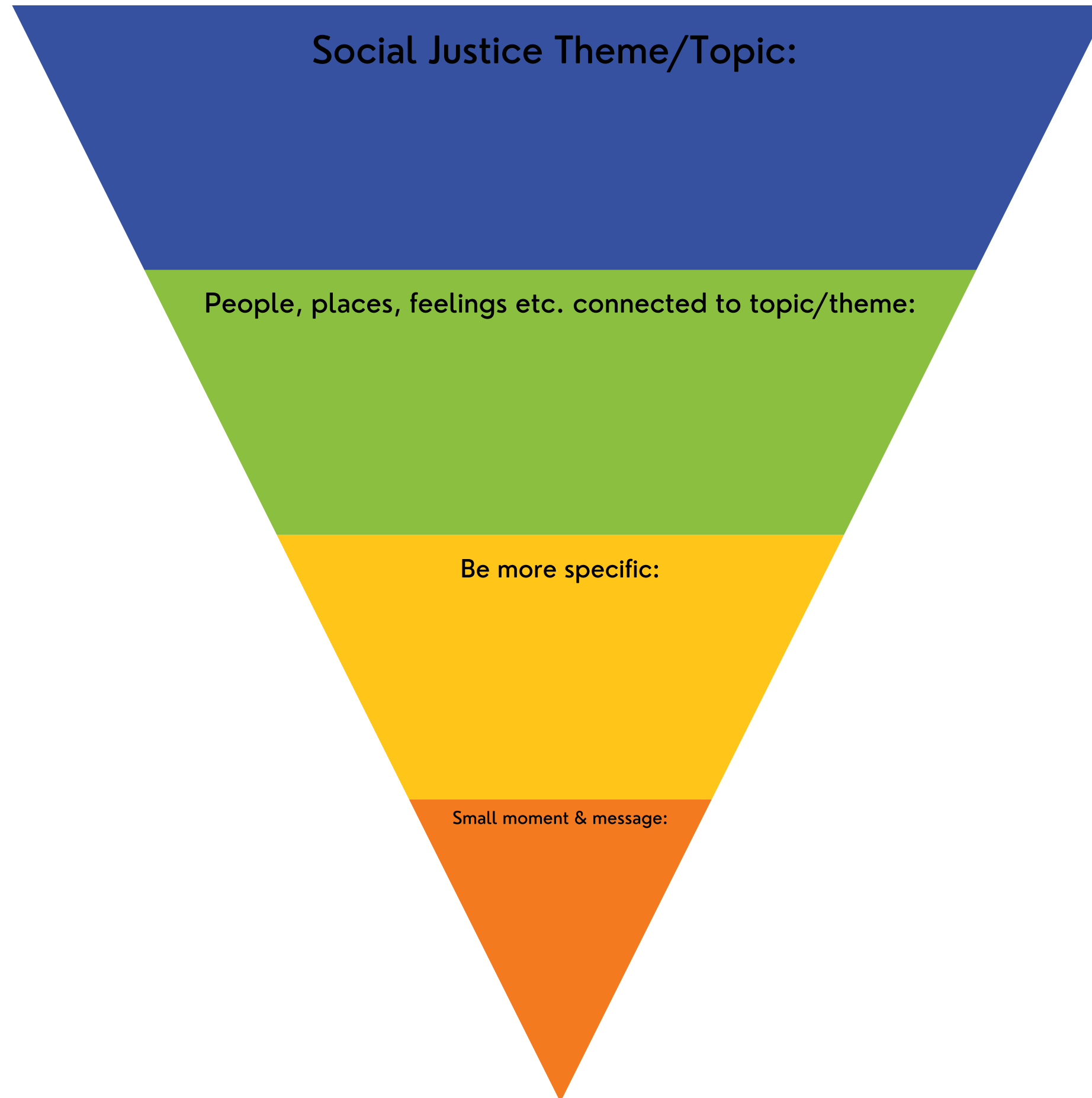
Finding your small moment.

Sometimes, as an artist, it can be tricky to develop a message for our art work. Learning to narrow down a big idea to a small moment can be a great strategy to help us develop important and specific messages in our art work.

DO THIS...

1. Use the graphic organiser funnel to help you narrow down a big idea to a small moment and message that can be communicated in your art works on social justice.
2. Start with your big topic or theme at the top.
3. Break down your big topic into people, places, feelings etc. connected to that big topic or theme. In this step, it is important that you are a little more specific.
4. Then, get very specific. Think exactly about the people, places and feelings you have listed in the above step and add more specific details about what you want to say about it.
5. By the end of it, you should have a smaller, more specific moment that will be the message you want to express in your art work about a social justice issue.

Finding your small moment and message



How do artists express messages?

As a Social Justice artist, it is important that we are using our analytical skills to explore the work of other social justice artists to see how they express messages in their works. We can research and study other artists' work to help us build our own skills in expressing important messages, which is what this activity is all about.

DO THIS...

1. Take some time to explore the work of other artists working with social justice art and find an example that really sings to you for any reason.
2. Once you have chosen an example that sings to you, use the questions and template below to help you analyse, unpack and document the strategies, materials, techniques and elements the artist has used to help express an important message about a social justice issue.

How do you feel differently about the world after looking at this art work and why?

What's the story being told in the art work?

What materials has the artist used and how does this help express the message?

What symbols do you notice in the work?

Social Justice art example.

Title of Art:
Artist:

How has the artist used size and proportion to express their message?

How does the title of the art work contribute to the message of the work?

How has the artist used colour to express their message?

What makes the message of this art work powerful?

What emotion/s, mood or feelings are being conveyed and how?

Why do you think the artist created this art work?

Telling a story with objects.

When we think about expressing a message in our art work, we often try to think about symbols or things we associate with particular topics that we can weave into our art works. This art experience is also about finding symbols in found objects around you that can communicate ideas, feelings, emotions, mood or messages about a social justice issue important to you.

DO THIS...

1. Firstly, think about a social justice issue you would like to explore and experiment with for this activity. Use the brainstorm sheet below to brainstorm a list of all the objects and things you might associate with that social justice issue.
2. Stop, pause and take a look at the art work of Gregg Segal (in the video) to get inspiration for your art, composition and story. You can learn more about him and his series here - <https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2020/01/undaily-bread-gregg-segal/>
3. Then, once you are inspired by the work, go on a scavenger hunt in your house and try to collect at least 15 items that connect to your chosen social justice issue and brainstorm.

Telling a story with objects.

4. Find a spot in your home that will work well for your "photoshoot". You will probably want to choose the largest floor space in your home. * You can use a blanket or sheet to lay down to make the photo more interesting if the floor seems "boring".

5. Ask someone to help you decide how you will take the final photo.

* I would suggest laying down on the floor and asking your helper to make sure they can see you and all your stuff in the photo. They may need to stand on something to do this.

6. Now you are ready to set all of your items out on the floor to create an interesting composition....remember to leave space for yourself! You can edit your photo if you wish to.

7. Don't forget to reflect on your photograph, too, with a brief artist statement.



Social Justice Issue

**Paste
photograph
HERE.**

Artist Statement Questions

1. What is the title of your piece?
2. What is the story of your photograph?
3. In one sentence, write the 'big idea' of your photograph.
4. Why did you choose the objects you chose, and how do they help express a message about your social justice issue?
5. What did you learn in creating this art work?
6. Is the final photograph how you imagined, and if so, how?

Social Justice Characters

Exploring and capturing human emotions and experiences is such an important part of being a social justice artist. Social justice is all about lived human experiences. This activity will not only help you to think about the impact of social justice issues on human beings, but also help you to experiment with expressing a message about human emotions and experiences.

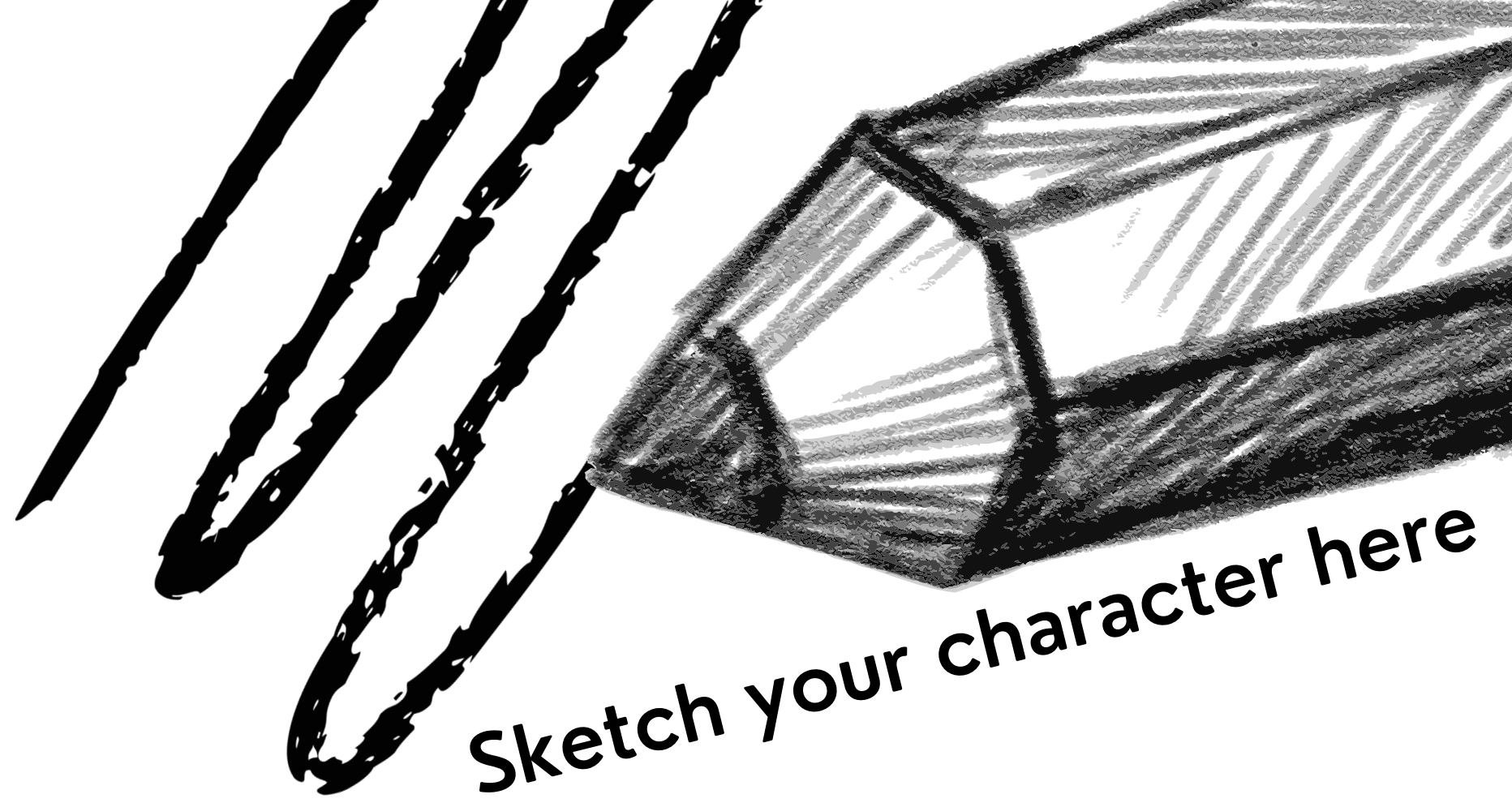
DO THIS...

1. Think about a particular social justice issue you are passionate about.
2. Think about a human being impacted by this social justice issue.
3. Think carefully about the driving questions on the page below to help you create a strong image in your mind of the emotions that human may feel, what features they may have that express the impact of the social justice issue and how they could embody or represent the impact of the issue.
4. Use the blank page below, or your visual diary, to sketch a character that visually expresses your explorations in response to the driving questions.



Driving Questions

1. What does your human feel?
2. What expression would they have on their face to show that feeling?
3. How could the clothes they wear help tell a story about the issue and impact?
4. What symbols or objects could you weave into the character to help tell the story of the issue and impact?
5. What location would the character be placed in and how does this location add to the story?
6. What defining features could the character have that could help tell their story and convey the social justice issue?



Sketch your character here

Visual Diary Social Justice Prompts

Visual diary prompts are a really great way to help you develop your skill in being able to tell a particular story around a very particular topic. This activity will have you using a range of social justice art prompts that will get you thinking, digging into your creative imaginings, whilst also helping you to think about how you would express the message of these particular prompts in visuals.

DO THIS...

1. Explore the visual diary prompts below and choose one (or more, if you're daring!) to tackle
2. Use the blank prompt pages below, or your visual diary, to visually unpack the prompt/s.
3. When you are exploring the prompt/s, remember to think about the studio habit of mind EXPRESS and some of the different aspects you have explored in the previous activities to help you tell the story of the prompts.
4. THINK ABOUT - colours you can use, materials that enhance message, tone and mood you can create, size and proportion, using symbols or representations, capturing emotions and experiences and remember that everything in your art work can be used as a puzzle piece of the story and message you are expressing.

PROMPT 1

Create a new invention that fixes a social justice problem.

PROMPT 2

Create a drawing that incorporates visual representations of these words - humanity, hunger, equality, power, greed, redemption, freedom.

PROMPT 3

Visually respond to the question: if you could change one social justice issue, what would it be and why?

PROMPT 4

You are a marginalised person. Draw a scene that you see specifically from your perspective.

PROMPT 5

Create a drawing about a social justice issue you are passionate about that persuades people, through the visuals you use, to take action on the issue.

REFLECT

Before you wrap up your Social Justice Art 'Express' explorations today, make sure you take the time to REFLECT on your explorations. REFLECTING is one of the eight Studio Habits of Mind, and a super important one for helping us grow as artists. As you reflect on the work you have done here, think about the following questions:

1. Which expressing exercise helped you develop your skills in expressing a message in your art work?
2. Which exercise challenged you the most?
3. Which exercise did you enjoy the most and WHY?
4. What skill would you like to improve on in your process of expressing a message in your social justice art works?

SHARE

Lastly, don't forget to share your work. Sharing your work can be a great way to get feedback. Take some photos of your final expressing explorations and share them with those around you. Don't forget - if you share them to social media, you the following hashtag to connect you to Incinerator Gallery and other Social Justice Teen artists!

#IncineratorGallery