Directed Draw “Learning” Activity

Essential Question: How do we learn? What are some strategies for learning new things?

Goal: Students will articulate and experience our four learning strategies: asking for help, practicing, trying to do a little bit more, and using resources (materials and one’s smart brain).

Task: Each student is tasked with drawing a realistic frog.

Materials: paper, pencils.

Steps:

1. Introduce the essential question. To figure out an answer, students will participate in a “thinking activity.” Although the activity won’t be exactly like real life, explain that it might help them answer the question.
2. Describe the task. Acknowledge the difficulty of drawing a frog but challenge students to make their best effort. Stress that students will be working on this task independently at first.
3. After a few minutes, address the class. Once again, acknowledge the difficulty of the task, and ask them if they would like some help learning how to draw frog.
4. Collect students’ first drafts, and distribute paper for a second draft.
5. When the class is assembled, prompt a student to ask you for help. This action highlights the first learning strategy, asking for help. Note that, in the future, this student could reach out for support from a classmate.
6. Lead the class in a directed drawing. (For guidance, watch this [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWvLoypH_ok).) Be specific in your instructions. Use geometric language (e.g., lines, circles, curvy, straight, direction) to describe each step, and use measurements (e.g. the width of one’s hand) to offer points of reference. These actions highlight our fourth learning strategy, using resources (materials and one’s smart brain).
7. Encourage students to push themselves by adding circular pads at the end of the fingers or the leaf in the background. This action highlights our second third learning strategy, trying to do a little bit more.
8. As students complete their second drafts, highlight the importance of practice, our second learning strategy. By working on multiple drafts, every student is practicing and improving.
9. As a class, summarize the four learning strategies.
10. Reflect on the experience. Invite students to share their drafts and explain their learning process. Some possible questions:
    * Which draft is better? Why?
    * How did you learn to draw the frog?
    * Did you use any of these learning strategies?
    * How might you use these strategies to learn something else, like math or soccer?