






Using Color to Enhance Observations

OVERVIEW

Students will use the Farnsworth-Munsell Hue pallet (or other color samples) to understand the importance of using details and descriptive writing when writing and note taking in all subject areas.

<p>AUTHOR Donna Pyatt</p>	<p>GRADE LEVEL 2-5</p>	<p>CONTENT AREA Writing</p>
		
<p>ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS</p> <p>Who is Munsell? Why are details important? How can I use details to help readers have a better vision of my writing and note-taking?</p>	<p>TIME NEEDED</p> <p>Time needed to prepare or gather and set up materials - 5 minutes Time needed to facilitate the activity - 45-60 minutes Time needed to wrap up/ review activity - 10 minutes</p>	<p>STANDARDS</p> <p>W.2.2 Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.</p>

Making Connections

Students should have been previously taught how to construct a basic sentence and the importance of details when making an observation.



Background

The Farnsworth-Munsell 100 Hue test is a standard used in the industry setting. This test detects color blindness and other color abnormalities.

The United States Department of Agriculture also recognizes the Munsell Color System when describing the color of soils. Details in the different hues are necessary to make conclusions about the differences in the location and content of materials found in soil.

Materials

- Farnsworth-Munsell Color Palette assessment or website that offers the online version of the test
- science notebook or writing journal



Teacher Tips

This activity can be completed outside on an enjoyable day or inside with magazines. I plan to use this activity in the fall when the leaves are changing colors so that I can also incorporate seasons and weather into the lesson.

If going on a nature walk, plan the trail in advance and be on the lookout for any plants that could cause allergic reactions. Also take any necessary medications on the walk for bee stings or other situations that may arise. A first aid kit would be handy to have for any minor scrapes and cuts.

Review the following site for tips on taking students outdoors:

[Taking Your Class Outside](#)

The Activity

Introduction:

The teacher should discuss behaviors expected when making observations outdoors. An anchor chart with safety issues should be displayed and discussed before the adventure.

Activities

- The teacher will begin by reviewing note-taking strategies and procedures.
- Question to discuss with the class: How would you describe your favorite item found in nature? Have students think-pair-share using only descriptive language - the goal will be to see if the other student in the group can identify the object without being told what the object is. They will then share this experience with the class as a whole.
- The facilitator will discuss the importance of details when recording information in their notes and in their writing.
- The facilitator should then take students outside on a nature walk or have gathered materials for students to use if a walk is not feasible.
- The students will choose an object and then complete the first section of the student sheet. After drawing their object, they will then write 1 sentence describing their object.
- Pass out Farnsworth-Munsell color buttons if available, or use the online color test so students can visualize the array of colors that can be used to describe their object. Inform students that they will be scientists in nature and that their job is to find the color that most resembles their item.
- After comparing their object to the color buttons or the hue test, students should then redraw their item paying more attention to the details. If their object was green with a little yellow, then their drawing should represent such. They may need to only focus on a particular area of their object in order to add as much detail as possible.
- Students will then rewrite their sentence using more descriptive language and additional details.
- Students can also display their sentences on sentence strips for a visual that the class can observe. The item(s) gathered in nature should also

be available so that all students have a visual representation.

Conclusion

- Students will have the opportunity to observe each sentence and item during writing stations throughout the week.
- Revisit the sentences and items and discuss how colors can be impactful when making observations in writing and note taking.
- Assist students in small groups to arrange a row of colors in the Farnsworth-Munsell Color Test.
- Revisit the need for details and specifics in writing and note-taking.

Extensions

Students should be encouraged to use details across all subject areas.

I plan to show my students trays of specimens found online from the Smithsonian of various animal and plant life. They will have the opportunity to discuss how the details in note taking are imperative when identifying all species.

Resources

[Farnsworth-Munsell 100 Hue Color Vision Test – Colblindor](#)

[Munsell FAQs](#)

[The Color of Soil | NRCS Soils](#)

[Student Sheet](#)

WRAP UP AND ACTION

Students will be assessed informally in the writing journals and note-taking. Students should be reminded often of the importance of details in all academic areas.

About the Author

Donna Payatt is a 2nd grade teacher at Pleasant Gardens Elementary and 2019-2020 Kenan Fellow. She began her journey in 2001 as a Teacher's Assistant. She has been fortunate enough to work alongside master teachers while completing her degree to become a teacher. Ms. Payatt has taught in the elementary school setting, the middle school setting, and also in higher education working with adults on earning their high school equivalency diploma. She enjoys learning and growing as a lifelong learner. Ms. Payatt enjoys when students set goals and meet their goals as learners.

up with the demands of societal needs since their start up so many years ago. I was able to learn how impactful it is for students to be prepared in basic skills in order to be successful in all areas of employment. Coats is forward thinking, creating new products that are environmentally friendly while manufacturing products that are available world wide.

Details and the ability to be more mindful of the smallest details are imperative in the manufacturing setting. I am thankful for the opportunity. I am now constantly aware of ways that my teaching can be more impactful to students so they will be better prepared for their futures.

About the Fellowship

My internship offered me the opportunity to learn alongside hard working individuals and professionals in the textile industry located in Marion, North Carolina. I learned the history of the facility and was how it has changed to keep