Drew Burnett Sculpture walk

A sculpture walk is one of the best ways to experience art, and the most interesting way to view locally done sculptures. The walks usually take up to an hour to two hours to fully complete, this gives you the perfect amount of time to enjoy the views and just be able to take in the natural beauty of everything around you. Now, why are sculpture walks important? What do they give you that normal art museums do not? Well they let you experience the art in a more up close and personal way, they give you a more outdoorsy experience on top of being a great way to exercise, and they give you a touch of what the local area is like. Most sculpture walks contain locally based sculptures, which means the art has ties to the city it is in. It gives you a look at the city from other people’s view.

Now, how do we get the young people in the community involved, how do we teach them about these great art exhibits at school? I believe each grade level would take to learning this the same way, but as we move up in grade the complexity level gets much different. Let’s start with 1st - 3rd grade, these students would be able to grasp what is going on with the art exhibits, but they may not understand why they are doing it or what it really means. I believe that if each teacher went to their class with a lesson plan centered around the students mapping up and creating their own walks. Have the students draw their ideal version of what their perfect sculpture walk would be and have them explain why they placed certain “statues or sculptures” next to each other. They may not even realize that there is a rhyme to their reasoning, but if you begin asking them questions they will start understanding why they did certain things. Then when they go to a sculpture walk of their own they may notice discreet things they may not have known about without that little lesson.

Next, we have the 4th - 8th graders. These students will be able to comprehend more and I would do the same lesson plan, but I want them to show their creativity even more, while also working on group skills. Having the students work in groups to create their own sculpture walk would add more creativity to these projects. You could let each student focus on an individual section, then have them put on the sections together to create one common piece. They would need to make sure each section followed a common theme while also still allowing them to express their own individuality. Students having their voices heard through art is one of the best ways they can express themselves. Giving them the ability to make it their own will help them understand where the artists are coming from when they go on a sculpture walk of their own.

Finally, the highschool students. I think one of those most interesting ways to teach them about sculpture walks would be to create a school wide sculpture walk, whether that be throughout the hallways or in the cafeteria. Letting the students create their own sculpture walk and describe why they created what they did would put them through the complete process of a sculpture walk. From planning out the layout, to creating the actual exhibits, and ending with putting on their own show. This process would be very entertaining for the students and beneficial to their overall learning experience. Watching it come together and the students working together would be a beautiful thing for teachers to witness.

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