

Learning Activity 29 : Conclusion

Learning Behaviours: Evaluating

Teacher: WDT

DATE: June

Class: 8E

Learning Activity Description : Conclusion

Student Comments:

A comprehensive written survey at the end of the semester was completed by 8E. The following questions were asked. Samples of the student's responses follow.

List the main things that you learnt about Photoshop

- **The main things I learnt was how to use more than one tool at a time.**
- **I learnt how to use Photoshop and what all the buttons do.**
- **How to change and liquefy pictures, 3D transformation – it's a good program.**
- **You can make things look really good and interesting and there are a lot of things to do to make things look better.**

What other skills did you learn?

- **How to make a cartoon and make my planet look real with texture, colour and shading.**
- **I learnt how to use other programs on the computer and my computer skills improved.**
- **I learnt the tools.**
- **It's harder working with a partner**

How did you learn these Photoshop skills?

- **The teacher helped a lot with the sheets and her explanations on her computer on the board. Also other students in the class helped me a lot.**
- **I learnt these skills by listening and experimenting on the computer. And by reading off the sheets that tell us what to do.**
- **By practicing, asking friends, watching other people, asking the teacher and the tutorials.**
- **Just mucking around and trying all of the tools.**

What did you not like about the leading School Fund – Photoshop unit?

- **I didn't like it sometimes because I didn't know what I was doing, but mostly I did know what I was doing.**
- **I did not like how we did not get to do as much stuff as the other classes in the actual graphics.**
- **Writing everything**
- **Making my own instructions at the end (cartoon section). It was very hard to do.**
- **That we had to write everything that we did into a book.**
- **Some of the tutorials were a little basic.**
- **Having little time to do all the different assignments**

What parts of the unit did you like most and why?

- **I liked using the computers because we don't use the computers that much. I liked making all the different things on the computer.**
- **I liked doing all the things on the computer because it was fun.**
- **That we did have to just do Graphics.**
- **Making my planet. It could be just as you want it to be.**
- **That we had freedom over what we could create.**

- **Using filters and changing stuff- because it was interesting and fun.**
- **Messing up Mr Stephens face (image)**
- **Liquifier because it was fun destroying things.**

Teacher Journal:

Many students didn't grasp the awe of what Photoshop can be about – many of them didn't explore and expand - or exhaust all of the creative design options available. Instead, a lot of 8E skimmed over each tutorial, quickly designing, not questioning options, but being content to do the basics without expanding further. Instead of taking 2 periods, allocated for most of the tutorials, many were very content to take shortcuts and finish with a lot of time to spare and then chat with friends.

My conclusion to this is that maybe a Year 8 general group is too immature and generally not interested in something so specific as the unlimited design factors that is Adobe Photoshop. If I were to repeat this research, I would consider selecting an older, elective group.

Another problem that I encountered was the time factor. 8E were allocated about 2 periods per cycle out of 5 for Leading Schools Fund – Photoshop, and time tabled into a computer room. Because the tutorials were written specifically for 8E, and had to be trialled etc. – I seemed to be constantly working on this project. Organizing written surveys after most tutorials, was also time consuming. Getting students to fill in the surveys with more than 'Yes/No/Don't Know' answers was also a time burden and certainly not a pleasant experience.

The collating of their responsive data was also a trial – and often a full cycle (2 weeks) would pass before any discussion could occur. Consequently, we would move onto the next Photoshop tutorial challenge, without much general class discussion.

8E also engaged in year 8 Graphics in a modified syllabus. I was not prepared to forgo the introductory year 8 Graphics course for LSF.

Some positive aspects include –

- **8E students really relished being a special group and a part of the Colleges LSF**
- **A number of students, already experienced in Photoshop, excelled in this computer area and gained peers respect and recognition that they would not have received otherwise.**
- **Because of LSF, I have been able to spend quality time on an introductory course to Photoshop that I can implement with other groups.**
- **Students of 8E, when next involved with Adobe Photoshop will have some knowledge of the basics of how this software operates.**

And maybe, when they arrive in our VCE Graphics and Art classes, they will have the maturity to fully comprehend and master just what it can offer in terms of enhancing design.