

Argument I

Historical Connection, Understanding,
and National Identity

Egyptians



Mayans

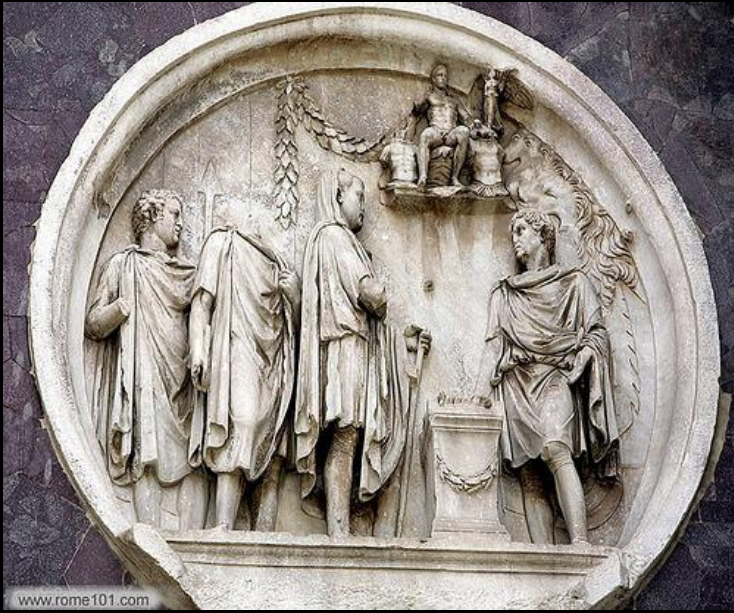




G
R
E
E
K
S



Romans



Inseparable



Cleopatra



Thutmose



King Tut



Augustus



Constantine



Napoleon



War of Independence



Bierstadt: California



School of Athens

Pompeii: Influences





Skylight



Argument II

Increased Academic Achievement

Statistical Representation

- Students in the arts score **102** points higher on the SAT (source 1).
- Students who have had four years of art in high school have:
 - A. Higher grade point averages (source 1).
 - B. Lower dropout rates (source 1).
 - C. A better attitude regarding community service (source 1).

Additional Statistics

- 79.2% of 8th graders in the arts report mostly A's, compared to 64.9% with no artistic involvement (source 6).
- 41.5% of 10th graders with arts involvement scored in the top two quartiles on standardized tests, compared to only 24.9% of their peers who were not involved in the arts (source 6).

- Students who participate in the arts for at least three hours on three days each week for at least one full year are:
 - A. **Four** times as likely to be recognized for academic achievement (source 4).
 - B. **Three** times as likely to be elected to class office (source 4).
 - C. **Three** times as likely to win an award for school attendance (source 4).

Argument III

Interpersonal Skills

What accounts for these statistics?

- The art program meets the needs of different types of learners and multiple parts of the brain.
- Art classes specifically teach students to:
 - A. Think critically
 - B. Think uniquely
 - C. Persist and learn from mistakes (source 2).
 - D. Think of alternative solutions (source 2).
 - E. Justify and form opinions (source 2).
 - F. Hone and develop visual spatial reasoning (source 5) .

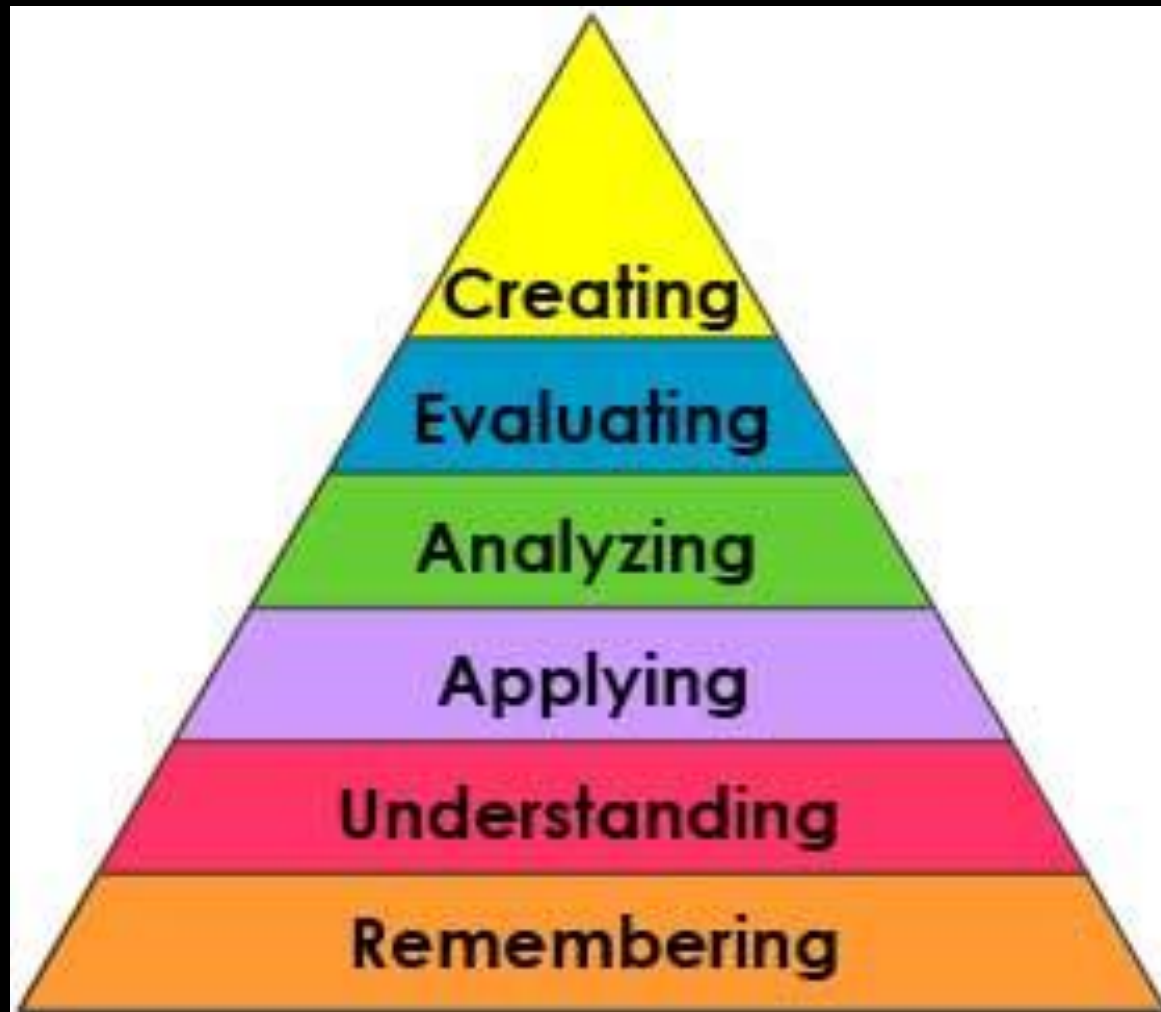
G. The art program also improves student motivation and self confidence (source 3).

1. “A review of 57 research studies found that self-concept is positively enhanced through the arts (source 6).”

H. It improves concentration, team work and interpersonal skills (source 3).

- In addition to this, a “A study found that ‘visual-spatial abilities, reflection, self-criticism, and the willingness to experiment and learn from mistakes’ are skills that seem to be taught only in art classes (Winner and Hetland) (source 5) .”

Blooms Taxonomy



Brain Activity and Stress

- Neuroscientists at seven universities “have found strong links between arts education and cognitive development (source 1) .”
- Art classes reduce stress, and take pressure of students (source 5) .

Argument IV

Economic Benefits

Revenue and Employment

- Art and non-profit art organizations:
 - A. Generate 166 billion in economic activity (source 1).
 - B. Employ 5.1 million employees (source 1).
 - C. “An analysis of Dun and Bradstreet data counts 756,007 businesses in the United States involved in the creation and distribution of the arts (source 1).”
 - D. Generate 30 billion in government revenue (source 1).

Quotes to Ponder

- “America, a historic leader in innovation, is falling behind other nations as it devotes less attention to developing what they perceive to be essential skills of the imagination and innovation (source 1).”
- “91% of voters indicate that arts are essential to building capacities of the imagination (source 1).”

“73% of voters believe that building capacities of the imagination is just as important as the ‘so called’ basics for all students in public schools (source 1).”

Arguments:
Against the Art Program

Reasons why the art program is cut from schools:

- The budget is weak
- It is not measurable on standardized tests
- It does not provide life skills
- There is not enough awareness
- Parents have had experiences in art class
- Art can not be graded objectively
- It is separate from the core subjects

Additional Arguments for the Art program

- Removing the art program is removing the only chance some students have to make a living or make it to Hollywood.
- Some students only come to school because of art class.
- Art impacts people in ways that nothing else can.
- Art teaches patience in a culture that is accustomed to immediate results
- Imagine a world without art: every wall would be blank.

One Million Bones



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