

# Understanding the Selection Process

## Working With Selection Criteria

This exercise can be useful when teaching students about what an artistic career might be like.

*Commissioning a new work of art or getting a commission is about relationships, and like any relationship it involves respect, communication, and flexibility.*

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 *It also requires business skills, negotiations, and mindfulness. [Forecast Public Art](#)*

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### What is a Selection Criteria?

**Selection criteria** are standards that entries to arts based projects must meet. These are like the goals you are shooting for. Through the year students have been learning about composition, colour and the techniques of jigsaw creation. Some of the criteria are basic and others are more specific and they are about innovation.

### Why is Selection Criteria Necessary?

When teams make decisions about which pieces of work to include in exhibitions and galleries and decide which ones need more development before being included, there must be some standards to judge against.

There must be clear guidelines posed about these standards well before the selection panel sits so that every one has a fair chance to prepare their work in the correct way.

The selection process can be conducted in a fair and affirming manner if everyone is clear about the rules. Throughout they year students have been learning about [how to critique](#) and how to work with critique techniques so that the [experiences are helpful and life giving](#). All of these processes are meant to be encouraging.

### What Kind of Questions are Included in Selection Criteria?

- ✓ **Is the artwork functional? Example: [Jigsaw Theatre Invitations](#)**
  - How well does the artwork (jigsaw) carry out this function?
  - Is the design suitable for this function?
- ✓ **Does the artwork have a message? Example: [Two Wolves](#).**
  - Is it good composition? How important is the message?
  - Does it have wide appeal?

- Is the story of the work well told?
- How has colour been used?
- ✓ **Complexity and thoughtfulness of jigsaw cut?** [Example What Does it Mean To Be Entrepreneurial?](#)
  - Has thought been put into the cut?
  - Has there been connections made through the cut of the jigsaw such as shape of Euro to represent money?
  - How clever has the design been?

Other selection criteria could be about humour, colour, composition, and innovation.

## **Making Decisions about Selection Criteria**

Deciding on selection criteria ensures that all selection processes are fair and that students are aware of the standards of selection before the due date so that they can work towards realistic goals. In this way everyone in the class feels safe secure and supported.

In the spirit of fair mindedness and so that everyone gets to experience the system it is advised that the selection committee rotates and that selections are made on a regular basis.

In this way students begin to realize that inclusion in important school choices are not about them!

Artistic expression can be learned and the only way to learn about full inclusion is to actually experience the processes that ensure work is of the standard that will be included.

This kind of transparency will teach students about Citizenship, Critical Literacy, Democracy, and Authentic Authorship.

**Step 1.** Form a Team. It is better if the team is randomly selected on a rotating basis.

**Step. 2.** Decide the purpose of the portfolio, exhibition or competition.

**Step. 3.** Brainstorm the characteristics that will need to be present in the work.

**Step. 4.** Write the Criteria.

**Step. 5.** Critique the Selection Criteria.

**Step. 6.** Set the Selection Criteria Out Neatly and Post it to the Class Blog.

**NB\* Important.** Post a copy home to parents so that they can work with kids at home on the "[Flipped](#)" aspects of the [Project Based Inquiry](#).

## **Resources:**

- [Forecast Public Art](#)
- [Ensuring Critique is Helpful and Life Giving](#)
- [Working With Critique](#)