PAPERCRAFT+

“I’m here because my friends are here. Art is fun, I guess. Oooh, look at that shiny thing! Did I tell you how much I like Chipotle? I... LOVE... Chipotle!”

This is the place to start for teens who like to socialize, aren’t self-motivated style learners, or are just looking for something quick and fun to do. The only required skills are having earned at least an “S” in cutting and gluing in kindergarten, and a love for sitting around, chatting, and working collaboratively.

LESSON SNAPSHOT:

PROJECT
Create a simple 3D paper object from cutting, folding, and gluing together pieces of a papercraft model. Can be scaled to a large collaborative project (several weeks) or small, single-use projects (less than two hours).

PREREQUISITES
In between bouts of cutting, folding, and gluing, teens are expected* to have fierce conversations about who was the best Batman (George Clooney fans will be asked to leave the table), the finest way to order a Chipotle burrito (6 lb minimum), and various other topics.

*No real prerequisites required.

MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED
MATERIALS: Glue sticks or hot glue, scissors, rulers, exacto blades or pushpin tacks, cutting mats, cardstock paper.
SOFTWARE: N/A
TECH: Laser or InkJet Printer.

SKILLS LEARNED
Soft way to learn 3D UV layouts, basic geometry, puzzle-based problem solving, collaboration

VOCABULARY
Hill fold, valley fold, score
DETAILED LESSON PLAN:

SETUP

- Print out a few papercraft projects before teens arrive, so they have projects to work on immediately. Pop culture characters are popular.
- Plug in hot glue guns (1 per 2 teens)
- Arrange cutting mats for scoring, and place a ruler and pushpin/exacto on each mat.

QUICK TIP:

- View this short 4 minute video for a visual guide ot the STEP BY STEP: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luncBiGrSrc&index=4&list=PLB63hgzGYISIj6kguHrd87YxOLNmraonS7)

STEP BY STEP

1. Begin with a few simple box papercrafts for teens to cut out and assemble. They’re widely available on the internet, just Google “papercraft + (character)”. Pepakura Gallery is also a great place to download models (just make sure you’re not downloading .pdo files, for which you’ll need the pepakura software to open). Keep it simple to begin with (less than 10 individual pieces).

QUICK TIP:

- Be sure to print the papercrafts out on cardstock paper. It’s much stronger and can be scored for accurate folds.

- (This is a simple project for the teens to fill in with their own drawings)

2. Have the teens cut out all the pieces.

3. Have the teens score all the visible lines (dashed, dotted, and perimeter folds). They can do this with a ruler and an Exacto knife, or a ruler and a simple pushpin. Be sure to remind them not to press down too hard or it will slice through the paper.

4. Have them fold all the lines up or down, depending on hill and valley folds. Generally, dashed lines need to be folded up (like a hill), and dotted lines need to be folded down (like a valley).

4. Have the teens paste corresponding tabs together. This is often through matching similar numbers or colors. Hot glue dries quickly and has a strong bond!

5. Have fun with papercrafts. Create short animations, dance parties, etc.

WRAP UP

(TIME NEEDED)

Place unfinished projects in a box or folded piece of paper. Recycle paper cuttings. Display teens’ work!
MENTOR FEEDBACK
(What worked, what didn’t, what did you change, what would you change if you did it again)

TEEN FEEDBACK
(What did they like, what did they find challenging, would they want to do it again)

BROADER APPLICATION
(How would we tailor the lesson to teach teens with disabilities? How could ARTLAB+ expand the workshop? How could schools/museums use this lesson and tie it into other subject areas?)

- STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
- WORKSHOP EXPANSION:
- CROSS CURRICULUM FOR SCHOOLS:

COMMON CORE STANDARDS:

21st CENTURY LEARNING SKILLS: