Laine Stewart

In my art classroom, it is important to create a space where students can express themselves freely and make their own decisions when creating art. I have a choice-based classroom that includes different art stations including painting/drawing, printmaking, sculpture and ceramics. The classroom will be broken up into these different stations and each station has different materials to work with. At each station there is a poster with rules, cleaning protocols and safety precautions that students must follow.

Students will be given themes to create their artworks about if they need help generating ideas, but the rest of the decisions are up to them! If a student is stuck at any time in their artmaking process, I want them to feel comfortable with asking me for help. I will direct them by asking questions to further their thinking about their own art. I want to create an environment where everyone feels comfortable with sharing their artwork and ideas with their classmates. To create a safe space, we will participate in short getting-to-know-you activities once a week. My main rule is to show respect for everyone in the classroom, if I see a student abusing this rule, then they will be separated from their classmates. When I see students participating and contributing to a positive art-making environment I will award them by introducing a special, new technique of their choosing (if it fits in with the budget) that isn’t included in the stations and they will get a day to experiment and play with the new materials. To be prepared, students need to bring their sketchbooks to class and a pencil, I will provide the rest of the materials. My classroom is self-paced because students will be working with different materials and some are more time-consuming than others, students will learn how to manage their own time effectively to ensure that they complete at least five projects in the semester. In addition I realize that we have creative blocks and sometimes we need to step away from our artwork, if a student is feeling this way they can take a break in the inspiration area of my classroom that has pillows, couches and artbooks to look at.