

Personal Iconography: Designing My Symbols

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will design a set of original symbols representing their identity and interests, exploring how visual symbols communicate meaning.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- index cards (5-6)
- fine-tip pen or markers
- pencil
- ruler
- colored pencils

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Brainstorm on scratch paper 5 things that represent your identity or interests (e.g., a hobby, a value, a place, a personality trait, a favorite object).
2. For each of the 5 ideas, design a simple, original graphic symbol (like an icon or logo mark) that represents it -- keep each symbol simple enough to recognize at a small size.
3. Draw each finished symbol clearly on its own index card using pen, then add color.
4. On the back of each card, write the idea the symbol represents and one sentence explaining your design choices (shape, color, style).
5. Arrange all 5 cards together and design one combined 'personal crest' or 'personal logo' on a 6th card that merges elements from at least 3 of your symbols into a single unified design.

QUESTIONS

1. List your 5 personal symbols and what each one represents.
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2. What is 'iconography,' and why do artists and designers use symbols instead of words to communicate ideas?
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3. Which 3 symbols did you combine into your personal crest, and how did you merge them into one design?

4. How might designing your own personal symbols help you develop a more consistent personal art style?
