



5 Levels of Arts Integration

Based on the article *Interdisciplinary Connections: Music Teacher Concerns* by Robert Wiggins (2001)

Teaching Tool Integration



Example- Learning the alphabet by singing the ABC song.

Education researcher Liora Bresler refers to this type of integration as "subservient" integration. It is the most common and least effective type of integration.

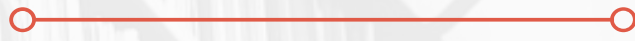
Topic Integration



Example- Reading a play about Mozart in history class.

A topic is used to enhance another in a different subject area. This type of integration does little to increase understanding in either curricular area.

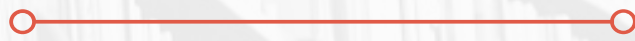
Thematic Integration



Example- Teaching a unit about the Harlem Renaissance.

A common theme is explored across multiple curricular areas. Motivation for this approach includes increasing student interest or making substantial links in two or more subjects.

Concept Integration



Example- Teaching conflict and resolution in music and literature.

Conceptual connections occur when students use understanding in one discipline to solve problems in another.

Process Integration



Example- Exploring symbolism in opera and literature through listening, writing, and creating.

Process connections focus on how students engage with subject matter, such as through sequencing, visualizing, or reflecting. These skills are crucial to study in any curricular area, and easily cross-curricular boundaries.