

Report from the Field

Creating Art in a Critical Research and Writing Course

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This report examines how or if artistic creation should have a place in a research and writing course that emphasizes critical thinking. A review of the emerging art-based writing movement and scholarly comments on criticality and critical thinking in art, design, and architecture shows that despite the many benefits of art, the precarious nature of “critical thinking” has had an impact on its acceptance in writing classes. This report, in responding to two questions posed by a colleague concerning the relevance of art in a writing class and the challenges of assessment, reflects on art projects from a sophomore-level critical research and writing class during the 2018–2019 academic year and ultimately advocates for incorporating artistic creation in the course.

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