

Working with Clay Sculpture

Grade 9 Art

Form - Elements of Art

Form is one of the seven elements of art. At its most basic, a form is a three-dimensional geometrical figure (i.e.: sphere, cube, cylinder, cone, etc.), as opposed to a *shape*, which is two-dimensional, or flat.

Watch this video on [FORM](#)

In 2-D art work tone and perspective can show form.

Sculpture and 3D design are about creating form.

1. Pinch Pots



2. Pods



3. Slab piece



Assignments after Vocabulary!

Vocabulary

Wedging: this is what you do to get all of the air bubbles out of your clay. Basically you roll the clay around on a flat surface “pushing” and “pulling” the clay so all of the air comes out. Clay right out of the box is already wedged so with new clay you don’t have to worry about air bubbles.

Slip: This is liquid clay with a lot of water added to it. It is used as a glue to fasten pieces of clay together. Clay shrinks as it dries so if you haven’t made a sure that your clay pieces are firmly attached, they will separate in the kiln.

Vocabulary

Leather-Hard: This is what we call clay that has dried for a few hours. It will feel slightly cool to the touch. This is the point where you can carve designs into your clay. Leather-hard clay is not dry enough for firing in the kiln. If a piece of clay is put into the kiln while it is wet, it could explode. Visualize what water does when it gets hot ... it boils.

Greenware: When clay has dried sufficiently and is ready to be fired in a kiln, it is referred to as greenware. Usually clay should air dry for about a week depending on the thickness of the piece.

Vocabulary

Bisque: Clay is usually fired in a kiln twice. Once at a lower temperature and then for a second firing after you have glazed the piece.

Glaze: This is used to decorate clay. It is essentially “liquid glass” mixed with colors or pigments. Glaze melts at a high temperature and turns the piece into a glossy coating.

Kiln: This is a large, hot oven that is used to fire the clay. You need to fire your clay to a high temperature (2500 degrees or higher) for it to be permanent. Once the clay has been fired it can be dipped in water and never disintegrate.

Clay Videos

[Pinch Pots](#)

[Hollowing out your form](#)

[Ensuring your form does not explode in the kiln!](#)

[Slab bowl](#)

[Vase](#) [Finishing your vase](#)

Examples

