App Review: Enlight

ART 305

Art Disciplines Through New Technology

David Teregis

Julio Cruz

March 13, 2017

Art and technology nowadays are hand in hand especially when you are looking for a job in the art field. The choices that are well known with most students are graphic designers, digital artists, advertising, and even teaching. Art educators now have to expand their expertise in art and technology. This class is a great example for new teachers as we get to experience how to incorporate art and technology into our teaching. You want to be able to keep up with the times and keep things relevant and interesting in your classroom.

Searching for something that would work for an art project was a little difficult. The selection out there depends on what kind of art project you chose. For our lesson, we wanted to do some awareness posters for environmental pollution. We thought this was still an issue in our society especially with the many doubts that the new government has and the many new projects that the government will allow. As humans, we contribute to the environmental pollution but some things are not our doing. When you think of the Keystone Pipeline or the water issues in Flint, Michigan, you can see that we need bring awareness to these issues and stand up for our environment. The first connection we made was the use of tablets and phones. We found an app on the iOS market that worked just like PhotoShop but more user-friendly. Learning how to use the app was easy with the tutorials in the app that has step by step and even practice or you can always go on YouTube to search for tutorials.

The Enlight app functions similarly to many of the photo-editing apps that are free but has a cost of $3.99. The cost was a factor at first however you can see the many options that the free apps do not have and that you can find in the PhotoShop software without that hefty price tag. The app allows users to crop, add filters, color correct, add text, add frames, and another basic features. The additional features that makes this app exceptional such as the Refit feature. This is where you “freeze” objects in your image that you do not want to be affected by the feature and then you can move those frozen objects closer. You can use the Mixer feature to blend images together, superimpose images, double exposures. You can also use Tilt Shift that always you to change the way you look at the image. Word art is another feature that makes this art project that we chose to do work well with this app. You can type in text in multiple fonts, add drop shadows, and even blend the text with the background. You can even create your own memes! When adding filters and such you can wipe and apply on the areas you want to create exactly what you want.

The first time using the app Enlight, there is a tour option to explore all of the app and then was an option for tutorials. For every tool, you were able to see how it works and was provided a sample. The tutorials give you a great rundown that was easy to understand. You can always save your progress and return back to the tutorial if you need to. The app is user-friendly like we have mentioned and watching the tutorials on YouTube made it even easier. You can see step by step with visuals and a talk through. There were many videos to choose from with many different effects featured. Anything that you may need to learn or want to try can be found in a tutorial video on YouTube.

The app Enlight is a fairly easy to use app for middle school and high school students. Most students would be familiar with adding filters and such to their photos with this whole social media age with Instagram and SnapChat. We want them to focus more on how an photo image of our environment and pollution can be impactful using the app. With middle school students, there might be more time needed to help the students learn how to use the app. With high school students, they maybe able to learn on their own by utilizing the tutorials on the app and YouTube. The biggest advantage of using this app is learning new terminology such as skew, tilt, linear, and so. It also will help introduce the students to PhotoShop and the possibility of a career dealing with arts technology. The only downfall of this app is that it is not free and that you can only find it on the iOS market. Depending on the school you work at and the availability of the students and their own devices, there might be some problems. You would need to request iPads or the school may need a computer room equipped with Mac computers. This app is still a good recommendation for use in a classroom but you would need to work out the details with the school principal or be lucky to have an art room fully equipped with the necessary items.

The app Enlight has been recognized and awarded App of the Year for 2015 in the UK, Australia, Germany, Canada, France, Russia, China, and India. In the US, it was a runner-up for App of the Year. It is an app that we believe we can use in many other lessons and it is fun to use to see what you can create on your own.

