

FASTNET

DRAFT: Plein-Air Workshop at Freshkills

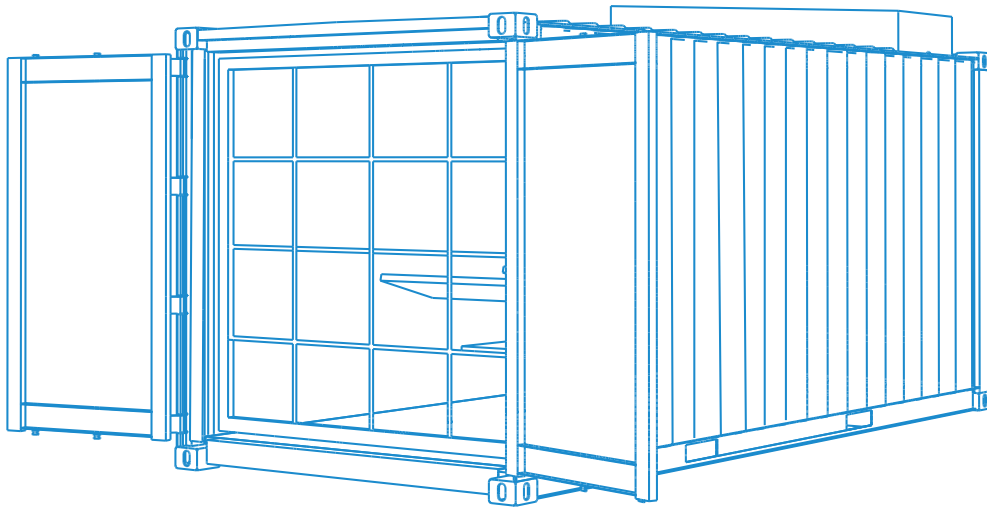


Lesson Plan 1: Foundation Workshop

Grades 9 - 11

Primary Objectives

1. Create a visual awareness of the landscape *through observational drawing*.
2. An understanding of the consequences our actions have on the environment *through discussion*.



Basic Structure

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Intro to Freshkills: written and verbal discussion | 20 - 30 minutes |
| 2. Drawing (45 min lunch break included) | 2 - 2.5 hours |
| 3. Brief written and verbal conclusion | 0 - 15 mins |

Total time: **3 hours**

1. Handout with 3 - 4 questions. Fill out and discuss.

Name _____

Grade _____

School _____

1. Who creates the most garbage in your house?

2. Where does your garbage go?

3. What does your garbage become?

4. List some things that you see that are man-made.

i. _____ ii. _____ iii. _____ iv. _____

5. List some things that you see that are natural.

i. _____ ii. _____ iii. _____ iv. _____

2. A. 30 - 40 minutes of short drawing exercises.

Exercise Objective

1. Allow students to get used to environment and container.
2. Release pressure to always create something complete and finished.
3. Work fast and loose. Most important!
3. Each mark should be a response to a visual cue or sensory cue.

Materials: Charcoal pencils, charcoal stick, eraser
optional: *conte crayon, graphite stick, sumi ink & water*

- i. Draw inside a paper bag or draw without looking at paper
- ii. Draw from memory without looking outside container. Close container doors (!)
- iii. Zoom in and focus on something in the distance.
- iv. Switch hands.
- v. Draw only lines and contours.
- vi. Draw just light and shade.
- vii. Draw the sounds
- v. Choose an object or area and draw how it would feel to the hand.
- vi. Start a drawing, have someone else finish it.

B. Lunch 30 - 40 mins



Throughout the class and lunch, instructors will continue dialogue about the park.

This can be an outlet to spark other creative strategies since not all students will be comfortable drawing.

Possible Topics

Stewardship

formal differences between something natural vs. man-made

"The environment isn't stiff, it's fluid...thinking about the act of drawing itself as mimicry of the organic movements of the environment."

Is this what you expected to see?

Could you imagine living here?

Why do you think recycling is important?

Did you know about Freshkills before you came here? If so, where...?

How would you describe this to your friends?

Would you come back?

Have you ever cherished something that others viewed as garbage?

Imagine the seasons

Wildness vs Wilderness

Does recycling feel like a burden? If so, how do you incentivize yourself?

Transition the space from one use (garbage) to another (recreation). NYC's responsibilities. Public space.

How is this environment different from others you are used to? Other parks for instance.

What other activities can you imagine occurring here?

3. A. Longer observation drawing. *Grid optional*.

B. Final exercise. Students given three options.

i. Imagine a landscape with the top layer of soil removed.

ii. Imagine the landscape 50 years in the future.

iii. Repeat a previous exercise. Different POV.

*Option to draw
from top of mound.*



Objective:

Continuing from Part 1, the students are lead in such a way that they are moving fast and making every mark from a visual reference. If the student finishes early or has reached a state of completion they should start a new exercise. Work should not belabored - but rough and organic. This is the outdoors! This is plein-air drawing! The student should feel like they are solving problems and not worrying about perfection or appearance.

3. Conclusion: handout/or short discussion. (?)

Conclusion Objective:

Leave the students with a thought about drawing and Freshkills to take home.

How would you describe Freshkills to your friends?

How did your experience drawing inform your understanding of Freshkills?

What other programs or activities would you like to see here?

Bonus question:

How many wild animals did you see while you were here?

Notes - follow-up

- A website/archive of all the drawings.
- Exhibition
- Book



Most likely site, looking out over Arthur Kill