

Using The Camera To Empower Students: Synopsis

By Jessica Wallach

Not to be missed: Using the Camera to Empower Students and Deepen Learning! Photographer, educator, and accessibility queen Jessica Wallach's talk is central to our conversation of how to deliver arts education in the time of COVID. She discusses teaching through the lens: how do we make our virtual classroom accessibility and building relationships through the lens.

Her talk is predicated on two ideas: 1) As teachers our first job is to contradict the messages of ableism, the messages that devalue the bodies and minds of people with disability. (She knows you already do this, or you would not be attending this conference.) 2) A camera can be used as a communications tool similar to and as an alternative to pen and paper.

Jessica details how to create an accessible virtual classroom through connectivity, lighting, camera angle, audio description, etc. Then she offers a few concrete ways to use camera work in your classroom: 1) as a tool to get to know your students and tailor future lessons to them, 2) to have students build personalized reference libraries of images for any type of art's education, and 3) to build visual examples of techniques and processes for teachers and students alike. Through these two mini-lessons, she gives you the basic info to teach your students how to use their cameras to deepen learning and as an alternative to writing.

We are using cameras more than ever to build relationships and teach every day. Do not miss this opportunity to ponder how you can maximize your lens.