Abstract
The purpose of this paper is to examine, through the design of a new curriculum, how the integration of reading and writing literacy into a visual arts curriculum can strengthen literacy skills as well as foster creative thinking at the middle school level.

There is a growing demand for the integration of literacy in all core, and non-core curricula in today’s educational system. In the arts, especially in the visual arts, the role of literacy is often overlooked. Literacy is an essential element to the overall success of students. This study presents the results of an action research study. The design of a new curriculum for the middle school level focuses on the integration of literacy within a visual art curriculum. © 2015 Erin Moody-Zoet, Western Michigan University
curricula. By developing a curriculum that integrates literacy strategies in a visual arts program, as well as touches on the disconnect that I see between individuals and their own creative outlets, a curriculum is established that fosters creative thinking, literacy, and the visual arts.

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