
UNIT: Elements of Design**LESSON:** Space

COMPETENCIES:

1. Identify the positive and negative uses of space in a design.
2. Explain how to make small spaces seem larger and large spaces seem intimate and cozy.

OVERVIEW/SUMMARY:

Space is a necessary element of any design. Both positive and negative space are required to create spatial relationships. The Golden Mean refers to dividing space to make it pleasing to the eye.

MOTIVATOR:

Have desks in the room moved next to each other, next to the wall, etc. Discuss how the students feel about this new seating arrangement. Are they more comfortable or less comfortable?

LESSON OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:**OPTION 1**

TEACHER PRESENTATION: Present the teacher information "SPACE". (Show examples and explain different emotions of "POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE" space using the transparencies included with this lesson. Have students gather pictures that illustrate the various uses of space. They should share their illustrations with the class and explain how they perceive the use of space.

OPTION 2

ACTIVITY: Cut a large shape from a sheet of colored paper. Then cut the shape into 9 or more pieces (reference "POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SPACE TRIANGLE" and "POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SPACE SQUARE"). Re-form the pieces into the original shape on a sheet of paper. Expand the shape by gradually sliding the pieces apart. Experiment with different amounts of negative space between the pieces. After deciding on the most pleasing arrangement, glue the pieces to a sheet of contrasting paper. Discuss how the design is more interesting than the plain shape. (Samples for transparencies are included.)

OPTION 3

ACTIVITY: Students will illustrate the use of positive and negative space by making a black and white design. Each student should be given several 2-inch squares of black paper. They will then arrange the squares on a white piece of paper. Share the designs with the class and discuss the use of space with the class.

OPTION 4

EXERCISE: Have students make their own designs for rearranging the classroom. Let them try to make the room feel more spacious or cozy by following the space planning rules.

RESOURCES:

Inside Today's Home, 6th Edition, Nissen/Faulkner, pp. 67-73.
