

Works Cited

“National Overview: Facts and Figures on Materials, Wastes and Recycling” United States Environmental Protection Agency, 19 Dec. 2025.

www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/national-overview-facts-and-figures-materials#Recycling/Composting. Accessed 27 Jan. 2026.

This is a fact sheet about recycling and waste in the United States. Over the last few decades, the rate of recycling has increased and then plateauing and even dipping to 32.1% in 2018. It describes the three Rs: “reduce, reuse, and recycle” as a hierarchy/pyramid when it comes to environmental effectiveness, and how recycling is the least effective despite being the most frequent. There’s a real danger of falling into the idea that simply recycling is enough to combat waste production. It’s exactly why I’ll need to come up with a way to reuse my activity book (turning it into a poster) and old clothes instead of immediately jumping to recycling.

Ajudua, Christine. “Artist Aurora Robson on Making Art from Cast-off Plastic.” *Artnet News*, 2 Mar. 2022, news.artnet.com/art-world/aurora-robson-interview-2079525. Accessed 30 Sep. 2025.

Bilodeau, Chantal. “HIT ME WHERE IT HURTS: The Intersection of Theater and Climate Change.” *Extraordinary Partnerships: How the Arts and Humanities Are Transforming America*, edited by Christine Henseler, Lever Press, 2020, pp. 215–32. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/10.3998/mpub.11649046.17. Accessed 23 Jan. 2026.

This is a book chapter that focuses on playwriting, dramaturgy (both cultural and about climate change), and activism. It is an open-access e-book that offered me insight on how to turn an activity or experience into an educational piece. Henseler opens the chapter by noting how humans are moved by their emotions, provoked by stories and experiences, rather than statistics. That’s why her work, in addition to all storytelling and media, is so crucial to being aware of the world around us. She talks about empathy being universal, how it is not restricted to where we are and things that directly affect us, and how easy it can be to slip into ignorance about things that are not bright red and blaring, and most of all, how art can change our beliefs into supporting a “just and sustainable world” (17). This is the mindset that I need to keep in mind when designing my activity book, and it changed my idea. It isn’t enough to give statistics and facts about a topic on one page. Instead, every activity and every character should be building on one bigger idea, a lesson that the audience (likely a child) will take away from my activity book. Maybe the subject won’t be climate change, but I’ll need to tell a story that provokes emotion and instill the belief that every person in my audience can make a compelling difference.

Costantino, Tracie, et al. "An Interdisciplinary Design Studio: How Can Art and Engineering Collaborate to Increase Students' Creativity?" *Art Education*, vol. 63, no. 2, 2010, pp. 49–53. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20694825>. Accessed 3 Feb. 2026.

This is a journal article/very brief case study about a Pilot project of a collaboration between graduate-level engineering and art students, with the theme of agriculture and food waste in the United States. Engineering and art, I think, are major seen on the complete opposite sides of the spectrum, but they found that learning both hand-in-hand has benefits. Art brings out creative problem solving and reduces perfectionism and the fear of being "wrong." Since there's no way to be wrong in art, practicing it can help students boost their self-confidence, which studies have shown improve workplace performance. There's also a strong tie between creativity and innovation, to the point where they could be deemed interchangeable. This was important, as one of my themes for the activity book was innovation. I wanted to ask my audience to look for a problem and come up with a solution.

Goldberg, Merryl Ruth. *Arts Integration: Teaching Subject Matter Through the Arts in Multicultural Settings*. Sixth edition. New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2021.

Merryl Goldberg is a saxophonist and professor at the School of Arts at California State University San Marcos. She wrote this book three decades ago to help rising art teachers, or teachers who wish to integrate art into their lessons and curriculum. In her textbook, Goldberg describes the benefits of art: 1) students will engage more with the topic, both intellectually and in developing their curiosity. Students can more meaningfully display their thinking by creating something that demonstrates their learning and how they connected the subject matter to their lived experiences. Goldberg compares this to doing significantly better in academia, which leads to 2) students who engage in art perform better. Since art pushes students to think more critically and discover new, creative ways to solve problems, they outperform their peers who haven't had artful experiences. This includes measured statistics like SAT scores, but also self-confidence! And finally, 3) arts education cultivates diversity and an inclusive environment. Art tells stories, it evokes emotion, and brings people together. All of this is the making of a better future. Sorry to ramble about the book, but knowing the importance of art and STEAM education, as well as how to successfully implement it in my capstone are important.

Netflix. "Abstract: The Art of Design | Es Devlin: Stage Design." YouTube, uploaded by Netflix, 17 April 2020, www.youtube.com/watch?v=jo4aAVjuh2o&list=WL&index=1.

This is a documentary about Es Devlin, an English artist and stagedesigner who has won a Tony and two Oscars. It was recommended to me by my mentor, who recognized similarities between her work and mine. Devlin creates sets and stages using propelling questions: Imagine, what do you want the audience to feel? What encourages those emotions? How do we create that in a set?

Her brilliant thinking inspired me to consider my audience and what I want them to take away: how I could curate an experience for kids that not only displays my own creativity, but unlocks theirs as well. How I could inspire them to walk away knowing that, like the characters I am to create, the possibilities for their work, careers and hobbies are limitless, and that they play vital roles in generating and contributing to a greater future. (Plus, I can piggyback and twist some of her ideas that came to life using engineering, such as the sick waterfall/rain effect surrounding a singular room, and the use of mirrors and various backdrops to change one space!)

Porter, Beth. "What Really Happens to Unwanted Clothes?" *Green America*, Last Updated August 2025, <https://greenamerica.org/unraveling-fashion-industry/what-really-happens-unwanted-clothes>. Accessed 4 February 2026.

Green America is a national nonprofit organization focused on maintaining a green economy. They reference the EPA statistic that 17 million tons of textile waste are generated every year, with 14.5% being recycled, 4.3% exported overseas to African countries, 18.7% incinerated, and still, 62.5% end up in landfills. Any clothing that has been donated to thrift stores suffers this same fate, with only 5%-10% actually being recirculated. Similar to recycling, the better thing to do would be to directly resell or transform old clothing, since it's more effective than the easy method of making it someone else's problem. Also, it's safer to properly discard ruined fabric before they get compiled into pounds of clothing, risking contamination. This is why it's important to come up with additional ways to reuse and transform old pieces of fabric, and encourage people to work with what they have.

Rolife. Floral Corner TGB09, 2023. Wood puzzle.

This one was certainly difficult to cite, and its citation doesn't give much information. This is a wooden puzzle kit created by Rolife, which I had the pleasure of purchasing and building in early 2025. Truth be told, this was one of my initial ideas during brainstorming: to build a kit similar to these wooden puzzles. Despite not going through with that idea, this kit, which sits on my windowsill every day, was a reference throughout the entirety of designing my own custom 3D wooden stage. Turns out, there aren't many resources to teach how to design a puzzle like that. Most resources either have a template or just say, "design a puzzle" before jumping to the cutting stage, so I used my knowledge of how pieces should fit together from this kit to my design. For example, one of my iterations included a gabled roof, so I looked at the sale sign that came with the book nook kit for inspo.

Sanders, Patricia B. "Eco-Art: Strength in Diversity." *Art Journal*, vol. 51, no. 2, 1992, pp. 77–81. *JSTOR*, <https://doi.org/10.2307/777399>. Accessed 2 Feb. 2026.

This is an art journal about how art and nature are connected. Specifically, it shows multiple examples of artists who have made statements or educational pieces using their artwork. I used them as inspiration for brainstorming my capstone idea. The key idea here is that art has the “ability to symbolize complex abstractions in concrete ways,” which makes it a uniquely impactful way to spread awareness and empower others to act and change the world for the better. Some artists named are Richard Misrach, who takes “cultural landscape photographs” such as bomb sites to break the comfortable belief that reality is beauty, since most captured art is regarded as such. Billy Curmano swims in the Mississippi River, and Buster Simpson puts toilet bowl porcelain in sewers to show the toxicity of the rivers. What’s more significant is how Patricia Johanson and Betsy Damon realize that conscious-raising must be followed by the empowerment of the audience. Johanson transforms sites to remind us that “we are citizens, not masters, of the biosphere.” Her work encourages us to restore the balance of nature in the world, to help us return a better land than we found it. Such a simple, widely taught rule-of-thumb, yet in reality fails quite often. I want to stir that empowerment, so I’ll research those who came before me and learn from them.

Studio, Art: “Ava Bock Art.” *Ava Bock Art*, 6 June 2025,

www.avabock.art/blog/sustainability-in-resin-art-my-ongoing-commitment-to-eco-conscious-materials-process-and-business-practices. Accessed 30 Sep. 2025.

The Painted Turtle. “The Painted Turtle Outpost: Activity Book for Teens.” *PDF*, 2020,

https://www.thepaintedturtle.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/teen_virtual_outpost_activity_book_2020.pdf. Accessed 3 Feb 2026.

This is a pdf of an activity book by The Painted Turtle, a camp in New Jersey for children with serious medical conditions. I wanted activity book ideas that would be suitable not only for kids, but would excite teenagers, too. I’ve noticed a lot of activities require cutting things out, and given how the activity book will eventually turn into a poster, I needed activities that could exist on the booklet. Thus, I ruled out the paper airplane, the origami fox, and the 3D turtle. But I do consider the True or False page and the Optical Illusions page to be excellent ideas. I also chose this source from the Painted Turtle because of their accessibility efforts. I want to make sure everyone can find something they enjoy through this activity book, regardless of how old they are or the skills that they are confident in.

Witek, Dominic. “10 Artists Working in Recycled Art | Artsper Magazine.” *Artsper Magazine*, 1 Aug. 2018, blog.artsper.com/en/get-inspired/top-10-of-recycled-art/. Accessed 30 Sep. 2025.

This is a magazine article about ten artists who re-use materials for their art, transforming what is considered trash into something that catches people's attention, and is made to entertain, spread awareness, and encourage sustainability within the art world. This was a resource recommended to me by my mentor during the initial stages of brainstorming. We wanted to be inspired by what other artists had done previously when it came to recycled materials, as I wanted a sustainability aspect, too. Derek Gores, one of the artists mentioned in the article, made collages using other materials as blocks of color. Guerra de la Paz used recycled clothes to make colorful political art statements, such as a giant rainbow. One of the key takeaways for me came from Ptolemy Elrington, who suggested the idea of making something out of parts, looking within what you currently have to create a new puzzle, instead of searching for something new to fit a specific vision. This is important because, in the shop, we are always told to use a scrap piece of material instead of something new, but this general idea should be implemented in more places.