As instructors, we are responsible not only for the product, but for creating art and artists, especially in our society today. With the general idea that parents want their children to one day go off to college and become a lawyer or doctor, and the diminishing funding for the arts in grade schools, there is less of a chance for people to gain an understanding and appreciation of the importance of art.

I want to be able to not just teach how to paint a pretty flower, but be able to get students to understand how much goes into making a single art piece. In grade school, I never got the chance to articulate the meaning of having a strong concept behind my pieces. I learned mediums, techniques, the elements and principles, but it was more of a “memorize to pass” kind of deal. It was until I came to UNT’s College of Visual Arts that I finally understood what art was. Grade school did not exposed me to the different options I had to work with, which is what I want to be able to share with future students, to encourage them to explore different ideas, concepts, and media. The less they know the more limited they are with their pieces and the more limited their creativity can become.

Since I have seemed to gain a greater knowledge and appreciation in the arts from the classes at UNT, I have observed and taken some aspects I would like to use with future students. For example, instead of just throwing out artist names, I want to take a little more time focusing on one particular artist at a time, letting students explore and possibly become inspired by some of them. I do want to go with more contemporary artists so students get a sense of what kinds of works are being made currently. I choose to do this because for me I have usually been more interested in the current than the history, although it still is important to show so students know what has been done and where current works derive off of. Contemporary though will allow them to grow and explore more techniques and concepts.

An issue I want to address in my future teaching career is the discarding of the idea of art due to the fact that it can not be a potential or secure career, and this is more targeted to the parents of my future students. I have had fellow colleagues who have pursued something besides the arts because of discouragement in their families. Art however is not solely based on painting on a canvas, there’s various forms that can turn into careers as successful as others. The growing industry of technology in our society provides many opportunities in the arts, from animation to the designing aspects in it.

I want to be able to educate students to where they can look at a Rothko painting for more than just a few seconds and not have the thought of “psh, my little sister can do that!”

I want to inspire and encourage them to explore more than just copying a picture with a pencil and paper, and have them consider themselves as artists.