Studio Thinking Framework

Studio Structures
A structure to put together arts learning experiences

Demonstration Lecture
Offer "just enough" information to get students launched into making. They need to see what’s being said, and, have ways to actively pursue their own solutions.

Students at Work
Students pursue their own creations by engaging with making and doing in the informal atmosphere of the art studio. Teachers monitor their process and intervene when they need to, alert to the kind of assistance (perspective, tools, techniques) most needed by each student, and at the moments when a student really needs it.

Critique
Build in reflective, meta-cognitive conversations to complement the learning developed by making. Artists back off from their work periodically viewing the work from a distance. They show work in progress to trusted peers and mentors as they discuss frustrations, problems, successes, and possible solutions. Critiques help to bring to the surface and unfold the richness, complexity, subtleties, and nuances inherent in the process of creating artworks.

Exhibition
This structure is used to display student’s work publicly and is an overarching structure into which the 3 basic structures are incorporated. Creating exhibitions can develop any of the Studio Habits of Mind. During the installation the exhibition space becomes a studio workshop. Planning and creating an exhibition mirrors authentic artistic practice.

By mixing and matching the studio structures so that they privilege students-at-work time, limit time in high-quality demonstration-lectures, and build in frequent, low-stakes critiques, teachers have the formats needed to help students develop rich networks of understanding within each Studio Habit and around clusters of Studio Habits that push and pull on each other in creative tensions.