



Activating the Blank Canvas

Meaningful Art that Builds Connection in Senior Care

Presented by Julie Mader

Introduction

A blank canvas is more than the beginning of an art lesson

- it can become the beginning of meaningful connection, confidence, and community.

Experience an art lesson from the participant's perspective, then discover the intentional teaching strategies that can help make the programming you already lead more meaningful, engaging, and connected.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Recognize the elements of intentional lesson design that promote meaningful engagement.
- Apply the P.E.E.P.S. Framework to evaluate and strengthen creative learning experiences.
- Adapt art lessons using practical strategies that increase participation, confidence, and connection.

PAPA Conference
October 5, 2026

The Big Idea

What makes an art lesson meaningful?

Throughout today's session we'll explore how intentional lesson design can:

1

Build Confidence

Reduce anxiety, create achievable success, and encourage participation.

2

Foster Connection

Create opportunities for conversation, shared experiences and a sense of belonging.

3

Encourage Growth

Help participants discover new abilities using practical strategies.



As you participate today, notice what helps you feel successful - and what creates barriers.

2

Session Roadmap

Here's what we'll do together:

1

Experience the Lesson

You'll experience the lesson through the eyes of a resident.

2

Discover the Strategies

We'll reflect on what you experienced and why it mattered.

3

Explore the Framework

You'll learn the P.E.E.P.S. Framework - a simple way to design with purpose.

4

Apply and Practice

You'll see how the framework works and try it for yourself.

5

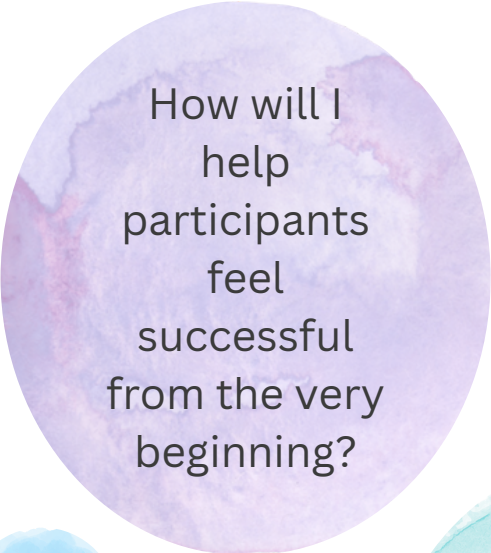
Take it Back

You'll leave with ideas you can adapt and use right away.

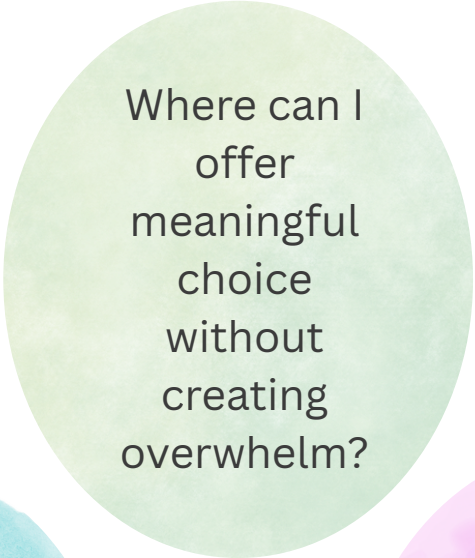


Five Questions That Can Transform Any Art Lesson

Before you teach, ask yourself...



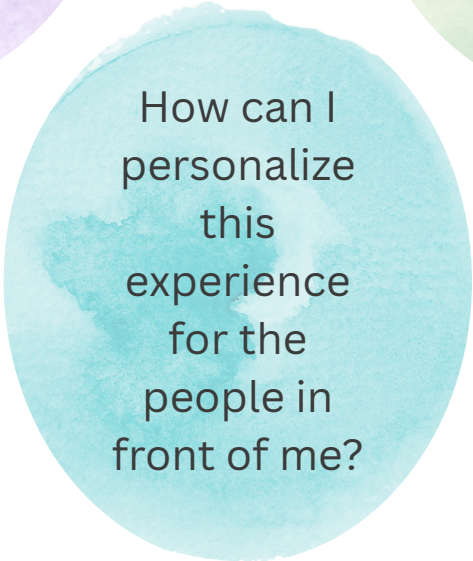
How will I help participants feel successful from the very beginning?



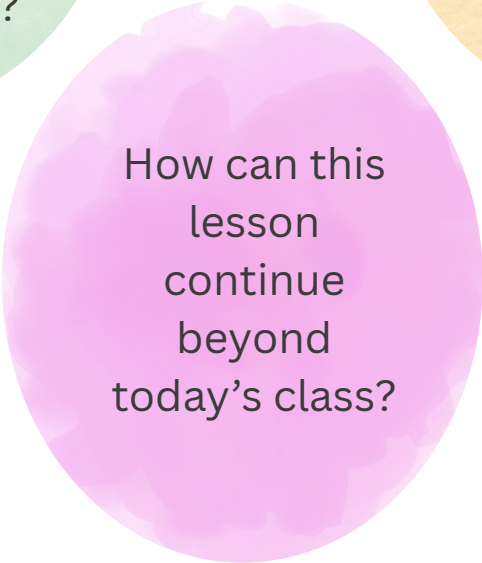
Where can I offer meaningful choice without creating overwhelm?



How can I encourage conversation and connection?



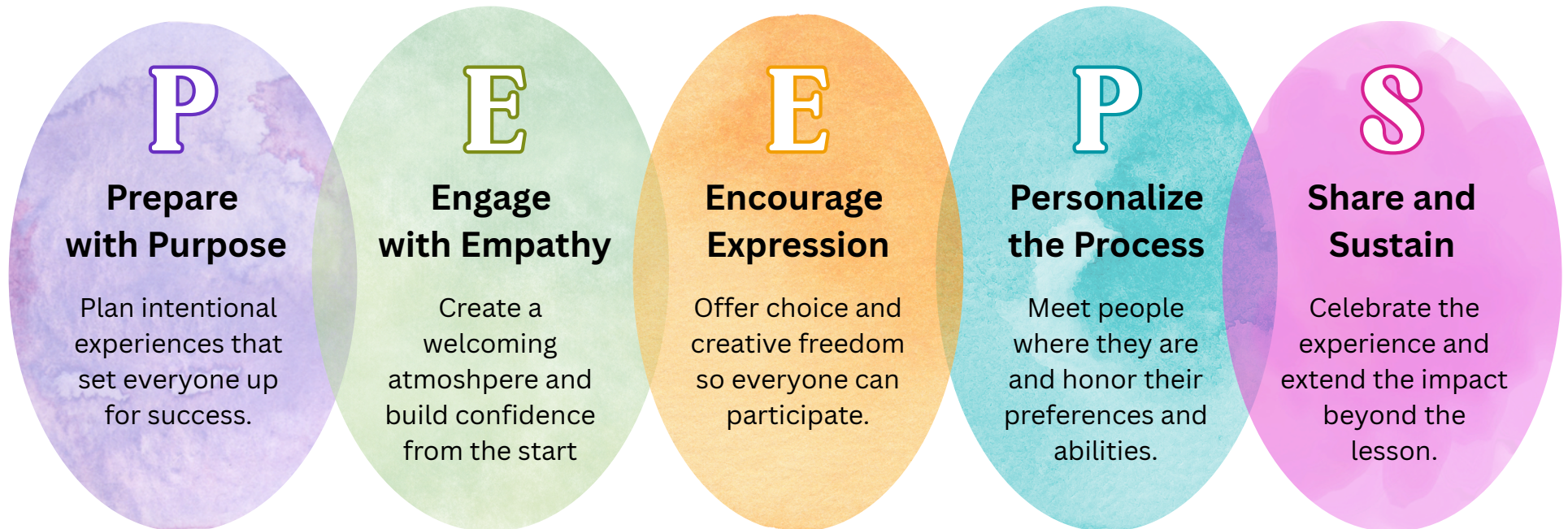
How can I personalize this experience for the people in front of me?



How can this lesson continue beyond today's class?

The P.E.E.P.S. Framework

A simple way to design programs that engage, connect, and inspire.
Intentional lesson design creates opportunities for every participant to succeed.



**P.E.E.P.S. helps you make intentional choices
that create meaningful participant experiences.**

Your Next Lesson Starts Here

Choose one activity or program you currently offer.
Think about the barriers your participants may experience.
How could P.E.E.P.S. help remove them?

Prepare

How will I help participants feel successful?

Engage

How will I connect this lesson to thier lives?

Encourage

How will I encourage individual expression?

Personalize the process

How will I adapt this experience for the people in front of me?

Share

How will I extend this experience beyond today's session?

Meaningful art doesn't happen by accident - it begins with intentional lesson design.



Thank You!

Let's create art that builds
confidence, connection and community
- one blank canvas at a time.

Use the QR Code or link to access your
PAPA 2026 Resources



**Caregiver's
ARTBOX**