

Bob Ross Technical Description Activity

For this activity, students will get into groups of two and each student will have a specific role in creating a painting following Bob Ross' example. One student will watch a Bob Ross video on mute (sorry—you'll have to imagine he's talking about happy little trees and happy little accidents), describing what they see Bob Ross doing with as much description as possible, and the other will attempt to actually make the painting following only the instructions of their partner. The second student should not be able to see the video at all while it's being described to them. Those of you giving instructions may slip into hand motions and charades, but verbally describing the painting should be the principal methodology. Those of you describing the painting should not be able to see what your painter partner is doing (you shouldn't be able to suggest changes to the painting as it's being made). For this activity, both students will need laptops in the classroom: the first student will watch the video while the second will be listening to their description, using either Microsoft Paint (Windows PC program) or Paintbrush (Mac program) to create a digital painting. Once finished, partners will switch roles and try again. It won't be easy to keep up with your partner's descriptions but this is meant to be a fun activity, so don't sweat it—do your best! The most important part will be your communication and technical description of what you see Bob Ross doing; the better your technical description is, the better chance your partner has at making a similar painting. When you have finished each painting, save your work as a file and upload it to the discussion board post on Canvas so we can have a digital Bob Ross gallery.

Here is a list of videos you may choose from to follow—keep in mind that after you finish your first painting together, **you must choose a different video to follow for the second painting:**

- Quiet Cove - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cR9hTbSomx4>
- Mystic Mountain - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VlucWfTUo1A>
- Winding Stream - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDwd4pMYyuo>
- Mighty Mountain Lake - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vXB2R8ybDE>
- Island in the Wilderness - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILWEXRAnQd0>

When you're finished with each painting, take a look at Bob Ross' painting and your own that you made together and discuss what occurred with the technical description and communication, and how the painter interpreted the instructions provided.