

The image features two thick black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned on the left side, with its vertical bar extending downwards and its horizontal bar extending to the right. The other is on the right side, with its vertical bar extending upwards and its horizontal bar extending to the left. These brackets frame the central text.

# THE CASE FOR ART EDUCATION

# A Quick Quiz

Who'll Do It Better: You or Your machine?

- Mathematical Calculations
- Remembering or Storing lots of information
- Following rules to solve a problem or create a product

# What about these?

- **Making judgments in the absence of clear rules**
- **Thinking independently and creatively**
- **Seeing a situation from different perspectives**
- **Creating something unique and beautiful that has never been created before**
- **Tolerating – and even embracing – uncertainty and ambiguity**

# TURN AND TALK...

What kind of thinking do the arts engender?

Consider the kind of thinking necessary to create a painting?

Also consider the kind of thinking necessary to interpret and understand a painting?



- When you look at this painting, what kinds of questions do you have?
- Consider your emotional response to the painting?
- What does the painting express? What might it represent?
- Does it make you see things differently?

Consider what a traditional, content-based, exam-oriented curriculum teaches our children?

# What kind of learning do we want for our kids?

## EXAMS

Who asks the questions?

Is there a correct answer?

Can children be creative on an exam?

What kind of thinking do exams – even good exams – engender?

What happens when examiners grade by an answer key? Or an exam rubric?

Is there room for personal judgment? For risk taking? For new ideas? For beauty?

## ART

Who asks the questions?

Is there ever a correct answer?

Can children be creative when they engage in the arts?

What kind of thinking does art engender?

Can we ever “grade” art using an answer key or a rubric?

Is there room for personal judgment? For risk taking? For new ideas? For beauty?

# STEAM: Why the Sciences Need the Arts

- Consider that NASA employs artists to design displays that present satellite data so that it is accurate, yet understandable.
- Solving the mystery of DNA's structure, for example, required Watson and Crick to imagine numerous 3-D models until they hit on the only image that explained the molecule's peculiar behavior – the double helix.

# STEAM

## Skills that are common to the arts and sciences

- Visual-Spatial Skills: Can you rotate objects in your head? Can you see images in your mind?
- Observation Skills: How carefully can you observe the world around you?
- Attention to Detail and Nuance : Small details can make a huge difference
- **IMAGINATION** – *“Imagination is more important than knowledge,”* said Einstein. Artistic creations and scientific inventions require an imaginative leap of some kind.



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# The kids are not alright

What is driving teenagers in India, across socio-economic groups, to anxiety and depression?



**Amy Morin**

What Mentally Strong People Don't Do

# 10 Reasons Why Today's Teenagers Are So Anxious

We've created an environment that fosters anxiety rather than resilience.

Posted Nov 03, 2017

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## Stress and social media fuel mental health crisis among girls

NHS data shows 68% rise in hospital admissions because of self-harm

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# Why Are More American Teenagers Than Ever Suffering From Severe Anxiety?

Parents, therapists and schools are struggling to figure out whether helping anxious teenagers means protecting them or pushing them to face their fears.

By BENOIT DENIZET-LEWIS OCT. 11, 2017

# The Telegraph

India

Friday, April 7, 2017

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## Teen mental health alert

Our Special Correspondent

**New Delhi, April 6:** One in four young teenagers in India suffers from depression, the World Health Organisation said today citing data from an earlier Indian survey, and also pointed out that India has the highest suicide rate among 10 Asian countries.

Some of the antidotes to this anxiety ...

NATURE

Poetry

Painting

**THE ARTS**

Music

Sculpture

FREE PLAY

Drama

“The arts are a means of exploring our own interior landscape. When the arts genuinely move us, we discover what it is that we are capable of experiencing or feeling. In this sense, the arts help us discover the contours of our emotional selves.”

- Elliot W. Eisner

*The Role of the Arts in Transforming Consciousness*

**CREATIVITY**

Ethics,  
Responsibility,  
Kindness and  
Character

**Socio-Emotional Skills:**  
How do we  
understand and  
express emotions?

**Critical Thinking  
and Reasoning  
Skills**

**FOCUS,  
ATTENTION SPAN**

The Arts  
Literacy  
Numeracy  
Social Studies  
Science  
Communication Skills  
Sports, Health, and Fitness  
Technology

**Interpersonal  
Skills** - The ability  
to work with others,  
empathize with  
others

**Physical Health and  
Emotional Stability**

We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. And medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. ***But poetry, art, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for.***

- Dead Poets Society

# SOURCES

- David A. Sousa, *The Brain and The Arts*, From The Jossey-Bass Reader on The Brain and Learning, p. 331 to 359,
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- Ellen Winner and Lois Hetland, *Art For Our Sake: School Art Classes Matter More Than Ever Before*, From The Arts Education Policy Review, Vol 109, 2008

