

Name _____
Period _____

Assignment: Ceramic Mask Design

Seventh and Eighth Grade

General Information:

We will, again, be working with clay on this sculpture. A sculpture is a work of art that is created in 3-D. This means it has height, width, and depth. We have discussed the element of form and how it is used in creating 3-D works of art. For this assignment, we will look at some examples of ceramic forms that incorporate a face into their design. We will create faces in the form of a mask. For this process you will need to know a few things about the form of the face and how clay is handled.

Project criteria:

1. Create at least **four detailed sketches** that show how your face design will be attached to a form. Your design should be no larger than seven or eight inches in height and width. See some of the examples on the board in the classroom.
2. Choose a design that you think will work best and that you will have the most fun creating. It can be as realistic or as abstract as you wish it to be. What else could you use as the subject of a mask? Make sure that the teacher approves it.
3. After the teacher demonstrates some sculpting methods and proportions of a face, begin your mask by whichever means you feel are necessary. You will have a lot of creative freedom on this assignment. Remember not to make areas of your clay **too thick or too thin**. If it is too thin, pieces may fall off in the kiln, and if it is too thick, it may not completely dry before firing. If you have a large, solid area of your sculpture, cut it open and scoop out some clay. **Score and slip** the sides back together and **be sure to leave a large enough hole** in the sculpture for ventilation. (no exploding heads!)
4. Check with the teacher on your progress with the piece. When are completely finished, and the teacher approves it for the final time, scratch your **full name** and **period** on the bottom of the piece and place it on the appropriate shelf in the kiln room. After the sculptures are fired, we will paint our **forms**.

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Sketches:

