

## USING CANVA TO IMPROVE DRAWING FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of using Canva as a digital drawing tool in improving drawing skills and engagement of elementary school students. Through quantitative design and descriptive analysis of data collected from 48 teachers in various public elementary schools in Central Java, the study found that Canva significantly impacted students' understanding of design concepts, creativity, and engagement. A total of 45.8% of respondents strongly agreed and 50% agreed that Canva helps students understand basic design concepts better. In addition, 56.3% of respondents agreed and 37.5% strongly agreed that students' creativity improved after using Canva, indicating that the platform provides ample space for students to experiment with different drawing techniques. In terms of engagement, 47.9% of respondents strongly agreed and 39.6% agreed that using Canva increased student engagement in art projects compared to traditional methods. In addition, 60.4% of respondents agreed and 35.4% strongly agreed that Canva allows for more effective collaboration between students on drawing projects. However, while the benefits are significant, most respondents feel that additional training is needed to optimize the use of Canva in art teaching. These findings show that integrating Canva has led to increased creativity and improved visual communication. into the drawing curriculum not only improves students' artistic skills, but also prepares them for success in the digital world of the future.

**Keywords:** Canva, Drawing skills, Elementary school students, Creativity

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### INTRODUCTION

In today's digital era, integrating technology into education is essential to foster creativity and enhance the learning experience. One innovative tool that has gained popularity in the educational environment is Canva, a graphic design platform that allows users to create visually appealing content (Gula et al., 2023). For elementary school students, drawing is a basic skill that not only improves artistic abilities but also supports cognitive development. However, traditional drawing methods may not always involve students or provide them with the necessary tools to express their creativity fully. By incorporating Canva into the curriculum, educators can offer a dynamic and interactive approach to drawing accordingly (Hinchcliff & Mehmet, 2023).

Canva's easy-to-use interface makes it accessible to students of all ages, including those in elementary school. The platform provides a wide range of templates, graphics, and tools that can be customized to suit each person's preferences and skill level. This flexibility allows students to experiment with different styles and techniques, helping them develop their unique artistic sound (Robinson & Graham, 2019). In addition, Canva's digital format encourages collaboration among students, as they can easily share their creations and provide feedback to each other. This collaborative aspect not only improves their social skills but also fosters a sense of community and shared learning (Singh et al., 2024).

Canva's integration into the drawing curriculum also goes hand in hand with the growing emphasis on digital literacy in education. As technology continues to evolve, it is important for students to develop skills that will prepare them for the challenges of the future (Nguyen Ba et al., 2021). Canva offers the opportunity to bridge traditional art education with modern technology, ensuring that students are equipped with the competencies needed in the digital world. Additionally, the platform's emphasis on design principles, such as balance, contrast, and alignment, provides students with a deeper understanding (Dmitrenko et al., 2024).

Furthermore, using Canva in the classroom can increase student motivation and engagement. The platform's dynamic and interactive features make the drawing process more enjoyable and less daunting for young learners (Prawijaya et al., 2022). Students who may feel discouraged by traditional drawing methods can find confidence in Canva's supportive environment, where they can easily correct mistakes and experiment with different ideas. This positive reinforcement encourages students to take creative risks, leading to more (Dmitrenko et al., 2024).

In conclusion, Canva is a valuable tool for improving drawing skills in elementary school students. Its easy-to-use interface, customizable features, and emphasis on digital literacy make it an ideal resource for modern classrooms (Lestari et al., 2022). By incorporating Canva into the drawing curriculum, educators can provide students with a more engaging, collaborative, and technologically relevant learning experience. This not only enhances students' artistic abilities but also prepares them for future success in the digital world. As the educational landscape continues to take shape, tools like Canva will play an important role (Alfiana et al., 2023).

### **Research Question**

Here are two research questions for your article on using Canva to improve drawing skills for elementary school students:

1. How does the integration of Canva as a digital drawing tool impact the creativity and engagement of elementary school students in art classes?

2. What impact does using Canva have on the development of visual communication skills among elementary school students?

### **Research Objective**

Here are two research objectives derived from the research questions above:

1. To analyze the impact of integrating Canva as a digital drawing tool on the creativity and engagement of elementary school students in art classes.
2. To spread the influence of Canva use on the development of visual communication skills among elementary school students.

### **Research Urgency**

The urgency of this research lies in the urgent need to adapt art teaching methods that are relevant to technological developments in the digital era. In the context of basic education, drawing skills are not only important for developing creativity, but also as a means to improve essential visual communication skills in various fields. However, traditional methods are often less effective in engaging students and facilitating their creative exploration. Therefore, the use of digital tools like Canva is crucial to overcome this challenge. By integrating Canva into the drawing curriculum, it is hoped that it can increase student engagement and develop skills that are more in line with the demands of the times, thus enriching their learning experience and preparing them for future challenges.

### **Literature Review**

#### ***The Importance of Drawing and Visual Communication Skills***

Drawing skills are one of the fundamental aspects of art education at the elementary level, as they involve not only technical abilities, but also complex cognitive processes. Drawing helps students develop fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and the ability to express ideas and emotions through visual media (Sunarso & Herdianto, 2024). In addition, these skills also support the development of imagination and creativity, which are important elements in a child's overall development. Some studies show that students who engage in drawing activities regularly tend to have better critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Thus, drawing is not only seen as an artistic activity, but also as an essential tool in multidisciplinary learning (Chen & Yuan, 2021).

Visual communication is an increasingly important skill in the digital age, where information is often conveyed through images, graphs, and symbols. In the context of basic education, mastery of visual communication helps students understand and convey information

more effectively. This ability allows students to interpret visual data, such as diagrams and maps, and create works that can convey a clear message to the audience. Visual literacy is an important part of the modern curriculum, considering the need to prepare students for a work environment that is increasingly focused on visual media. Therefore, integrating visual communication skills into art education is becoming increasingly relevant (Traboco et al., 2022).

The importance of drawing and visual communication skills is also related to the development of symbolic and abstract thinking skills in students. Through the drawing process, students learn to represent real objects and abstract concepts in visual form, which in turn strengthens their understanding of the world around them. This process also encourages the development of analytical abilities, as students must consider various design elements such as shapes, colors, and compositions. Research shows that involvement in visual activities such as drawing can improve students' abilities in math and science, as they learn to see patterns, make comparisons, and understand the concept of space (Schmitz et al., 2023).

The literature also shows that drawing and visual communication skills have a positive impact on students' engagement and motivation in learning. When students are given the opportunity to express themselves through visual media, they tend to be more engaged and motivated to learn. Drawing activities combined with other subjects can also make learning more interesting and meaningful for students. For example, students who are asked to draw science or history concepts tend to have a deeper understanding of the subject matter. Thus, drawing can be an effective tool to increase student participation in the learning process (Bakir & Dahlan, 2023).

Overall, the development of drawing and visual communication skills at the primary education level is not only important to support the development of students, but also to prepare them for future challenges. In an era where visual communication plays an important role in almost every aspect of life, visual literacy has become an indispensable skill of modern education. Therefore, it is important for educators to continue to explore innovative ways to teach these skills, including through the use of digital technologies such as Canva, to ensure students have relevant and rewarding learning experiences (Rialti & Filieri, 2024).

### ***The Utilization of Digital Technology in Art Education***

The use of digital technology in art education has brought significant changes in the way students learn and create. Technologies such as graphic design software, drawing apps, and digital platforms allow students to access tools that were previously only available to professionals. This opens up opportunities for students to explore their creativity in a more flexible and dynamic way. Several studies have shown that the integration of digital technology

in art classrooms can increase student motivation and engagement, as they can easily try out different techniques and media without physical limitations. With this technology, students are also more likely to experiment and develop their personal style in art (Iñiguez & Lorange, 2021).

One digital tool that is growing in popularity among art educators is Canva, an easy-to-use online graphic design platform. Canva offers a variety of features that allow students to create artwork, posters, infographics, and other visual projects quickly and efficiently. Its use in art classes has been shown to improve students' design abilities, as well as help them understand visual concepts such as composition, color, and typography. As a cloud-based platform, Canva also supports collaboration between students, allowing them to work together in groups of projects. Case studies show that students who use Canva tend to be more confident in expressing their ideas visually (Le et al., 2023).

The integration of digital technology in art education also has a positive impact on inclusivity in learning. By using digital tools, students with special needs or physical limitations can more easily participate in art activities. For example, digital drawing apps allow students with limited mobility to draw using devices that can be tailored to their needs. In addition, digital technology can be adapted for different learning styles, such as visual, auditory, or kinesthetic, so that each student can learn in the most effective way for them. This makes art education more inclusive and equitable for all students (Delgado-Suarez & Enciso, 2023).

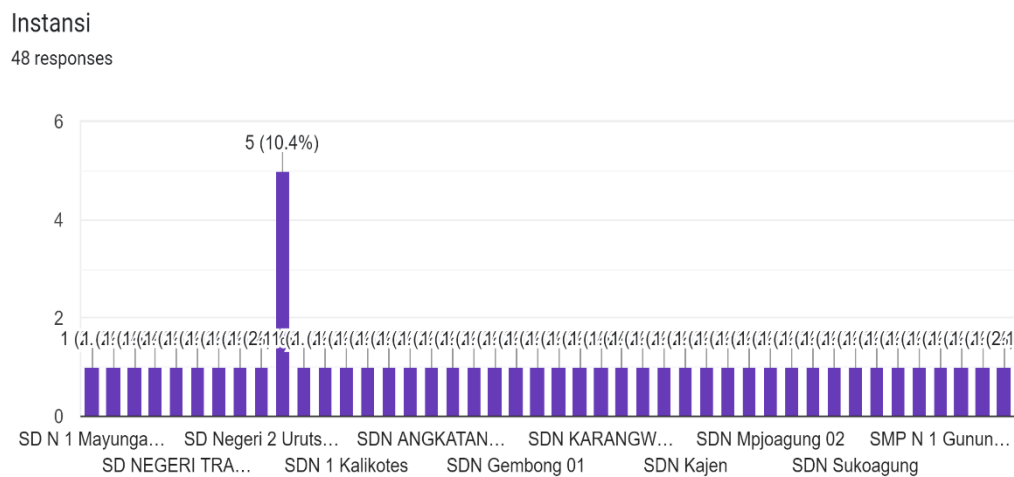
However, there are also challenges faced in the use of digital technology in art classes, especially related to access and training. Not all schools have the resources to provide adequate technological devices or stable internet connections for students. In addition, teachers also need to get adequate training to effectively integrate these technologies in the curriculum. Some literature suggests that a lack of technical support and training can be an obstacle to the implementation of digital technology in art classes. Therefore, it is important to provide the necessary resources and support so that digital technology can be utilized to its full potential in art education (Tagscherer & Carbon, 2023).

Overall, the use of digital technology in the arts of education offers many benefits, ranging from increased student creativity to more inclusive learning. Technology like Canva allows students to explore the world of art in new and innovative ways, while preparing them for a world increasingly dominated by digital media. Despite the challenges in its implementation, the benefits offered by digital technology make it an invaluable tool in art education. With the right approach, digital technology can be a link between traditional arts and learning needs in the modern era, providing a richer and more meaningful learning experience for students (Jeong et al., 2024).

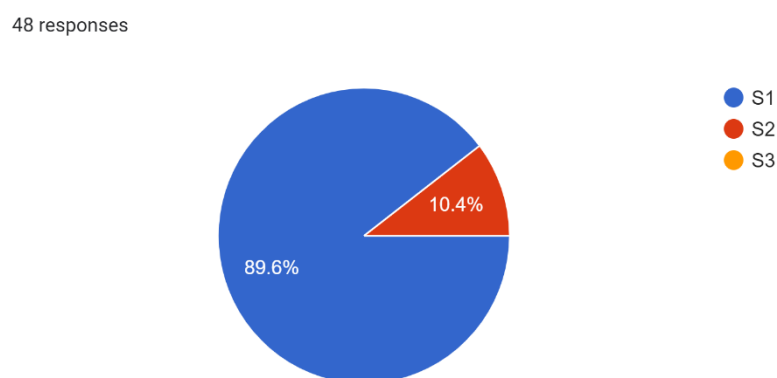
## METHOD

The author intends to elaborate on the design of this study using quantitative design. Furthermore, the data obtained will be explained by descriptive analysis of the distribution of questionnaires. Meanwhile, the data collection instrument uses a Likert scale with the following choices: strongly disagree is given a score of 1; disagree is given a grade of 2; neutral is rated 3; agreed was given a score of 4; and strongly agreed to be given a score of 5.

## Participants

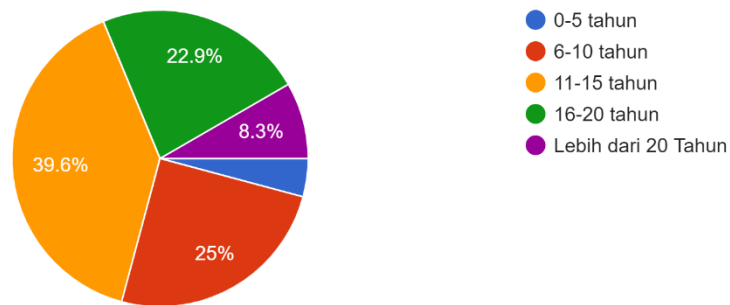


**Figure 1** Illustrate the origin of the respondent's institution



**Figure 2** Illustrate the respondent's education level

48 responses

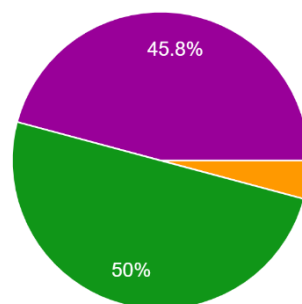


**Figure 3 Illustrate respondents' teaching experiences**

The participants of this study consisted of 48 teachers from various State Elementary School Educational institutions in Central Java province. The age range of the participants varied, with most in the range of 30 to 47 years old. Most of the participants have a S1 education background, but there are also those who have completed S2 education. Their teaching experience varies quite a bit, ranging from 0 to over 20 years. The majority of participants had between 11 to 20 years of teaching experience, demonstrating a level of maturity and expertise in their profession.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### **The impact of integrating Canva as a digital drawing tool on the creativity and engagement** *Improved Understanding of Design Concepts*

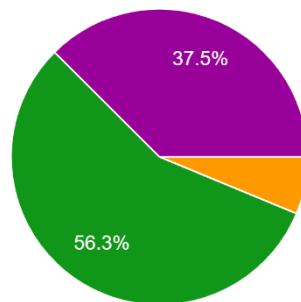


**Figure 4 Illustrate Improved Understanding of Design Concepts**

Most respondents agreed that using Canva in art classes helps students to better understand basic design concepts. It was recorded that 45.8% of respondents strongly agreed

and 50% of respondents agreed with this statement. This shows that Canva is effective in strengthening students' understanding of design basics.

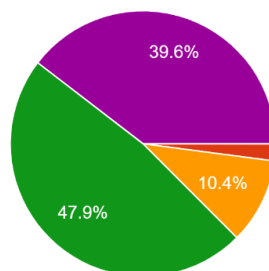
### ***Student Creativity***



**Figure 5 Illustrate increase in students' creativity**

The results of the questionnaire showed that the majority of respondents saw an increase in students' creativity after using Canva to draw. A total of 56.3% of respondents agreed and 37.5% strongly agreed that students become more creative by using Canva, indicating that the platform provides enough space for students to experiment with different drawing techniques. This suggests that Canva's wide array of tools and customizable options allows students to push the boundaries of their imagination and explore new artistic possibilities. Additionally, the digital nature of Canva enables students to easily revise and improve their work, which fosters a growth mindset and encourages continuous creative development. The platform's ability to accommodate diverse artistic approaches likely contributes to a richer, more dynamic learning experience in art classes.

### ***Student Engagement***

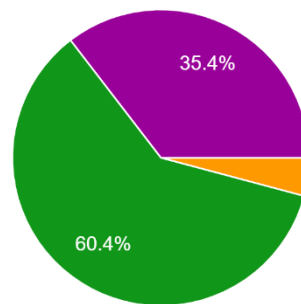


**Figure 6 Illustrate increased student engagement**



A total of 47.9% of respondents strongly agreed and 39.6% agreed that the use of Canva increased student engagement in art projects compared to traditional methods. This shows that the integration of digital tools like Canva can make students more engaged and motivated in art lessons. The interactive features of Canva, such as real-time editing and collaborative options, likely contribute to this heightened engagement by making the learning process more dynamic and participatory. Additionally, the visual appeal and ease of use of Canva can capture students' interest more effectively than traditional methods, leading to sustained attention and involvement in art activities. By aligning with students' familiarity and comfort with digital environments, Canva helps create a more relatable and stimulating educational experience.

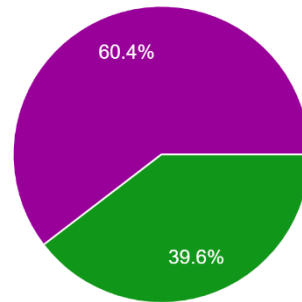
### ***Collaboration in Art Projects***



***Figure 7 Illustrate allows students to collaborate***

In terms of collaboration, 60.4% of respondents agreed and 35.4% strongly agreed that Canva allows students to collaborate more effectively on drawing projects. Canva seems to provide tools that facilitate cooperation among students, which is important in the development of social skills and teamwork. The platform's shared editing features and ability to work on projects simultaneously enable students to contribute equally, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and collective creativity. This collaborative environment also encourages students to communicate more openly, share ideas, and provide constructive feedback to their peers, which enhances their interpersonal and communication skills. By promoting teamwork through joint artistic endeavors, Canva helps students develop essential social competencies that are valuable both in and out of the classroom.

### *Additional Training Needs*

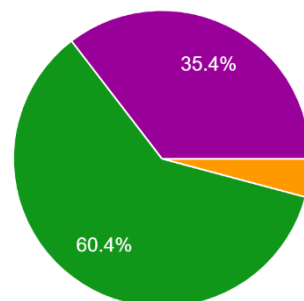


**Figure 8 Illustrate additional training needs**

While the benefits are significant, most respondents feel that additional training is needed to optimize the use of Canva in art teaching, with 60.4% of respondents strongly agreeing and 39.6% agreeing with this statement. This indicates the importance of continuous support for educators to maximize the potential of digital tools in learning. Without proper training, educators may struggle to fully integrate Canva's features into their curriculum, potentially limiting the effectiveness of the tool. Providing ongoing professional development and resources can help teachers stay updated on best practices, enabling them to utilize Canva more effectively to enhance student outcomes. Additionally, well-structured training programs can empower teachers to confidently explore and implement innovative teaching strategies using Canva, ultimately enriching the educational experience for their students.

### **The effect of using Canva on the development of visual communication skills**

#### *Support for Visual Communication Skills*



**Figure 9 Illustrate support for visual communication skills**

A substantial majority of respondents (60,4%) acknowledged that Canva provides adequate tools to support the development of students' visual communication skills. This result

underscores Canva's effectiveness in equipping students with the necessary resources to express their ideas visually. The ability to easily access various design elements and experiment with different visual layouts likely contributes to the enhanced development of these skills. Furthermore, Canva's user-friendly interface encourages students to explore and refine their visual messages with confidence, reducing the intimidation often associated with more complex design software. This ease of use, combined with the platform's versatility, ensures that students of varying skill levels can effectively develop and communicate their ideas through visual means.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion, the use of Canva as a digital drawing tool has had a significant positive impact in improving the drawing skills of elementary school students. With its easy-to-use interface, Canva allows students to explore a variety of artistic techniques and styles, which in turn enhances their creativity. Additionally, the interactive features of Canva facilitate collaboration between students, which not only enhances their social skills but also strengthens a sense of community in the learning environment.

The use of Canva also supports digital literacy, which is increasingly important in this modern era. Through the integration of this technology, students not only learn basic design concepts such as balance and contrast, but also prepare themselves for future challenges. Canva's use of drawing in the drawing curriculum shows that digital technology can be an effective bridge between traditional arts education and learning needs in the digital age, enriching students' overall learning experience.

However, while the benefits are clear, there are still challenges in implementing Canva in the classroom, especially related to the need for additional training for educators. Without adequate training, the full potential of Canva may not be fully utilized in the teaching process. Therefore, ongoing support and professional development are essential to ensure that teachers can effectively integrate Canva into their learning, so that students can experience the maximum benefits of this technology.

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