Lesson plan AI vs Human 3

# **Lesson Plan: Painting the Soundscape**

**Grade Level:** 4–8

**Subject Areas:** Visual Art, Music, SEL

**Time:** 60–75 minutes

## **Objective**

Students will explore how different styles of music can evoke feelings, images, and stories, then express those reactions through abstract painting. They will develop confidence in using art to represent emotion and practice articulating personal interpretations.

## **Materials**

* Audio player/speakers
* Playlist with 4–5 contrasting songs (instrumental preferred: e.g., classical, jazz, folk, rock, ambient)
* Watercolor paper (1 sheet per student)
* Watercolor sets or tempera paint
* Brushes
* Water cups
* Paper towels
* Pencils
* Optional: Mood or color wheels for reference

## **Opening (10 minutes)**

Begin with a brief class discussion:

* Ask: “Have you ever had a song stuck in your head? Why do you think it stuck with you?”
* Then ask: “Can music remind you of colors, shapes, or moods?” Invite a few students to describe a song and what they *see* when they hear it.
* Tell students: “Today, you’ll be painting what music feels like — not what it looks like literally, but what it makes you *feel* like inside.”

## **Body (45–50 minutes)**

### **Step 1: Sketch the Feeling (5–10 minutes)**

Have students listen to a short excerpt of the first song. During the listening, they should *close their eyes* or look away to focus.

Ask:

* “What colors come to mind?”
* “What shapes or movements do you picture?”
* “Does this song feel smooth, sharp, bright, dark, soft, loud?”

Afterward, students jot down words, colors, or simple sketches to capture the *essence* of the music.

### **Step 2: Paint to the Sound (10–12 minutes per track)**

* Play the first song again while students paint. Encourage them to stay abstract — they aren’t painting a tree or a person; they’re painting how the *music moves*.
* After 10–12 minutes, clean brushes, switch water, and move on to the next track.
* Repeat for 3–4 musical excerpts total.

## **Closing (10–15 minutes)**

* Have students do a “gallery walk,” placing their paintings around the room.
* Ask each student to stand by one of their pieces and briefly share:
	+ What kind of music they were painting to
	+ One emotion or image that came to mind
* Prompt discussion: “Did anyone have a different feeling from the same song?”

## **Assessment**

Students will be assessed based on:

* Willingness to engage in the activity
* Ability to explain their artistic choices
* Participation in group sharing and listening to others

## **Differentiation**

* Students who need extra support may choose just two songs to paint to.
* Offer colored pencils or pastels for students who struggle with paint.
* Let students work with a partner if helpful — one listens and shares words, the other paints.

## **Extension Ideas**

* Turn the paintings into a collaborative mural
* Use creative writing: “Write a poem or paragraph from inside your painting”
* Do a second round with student-chosen songs