From Classroom to Contribution

10 Reasons Every Art Educator Should Get Published

By Frank Juárez

Advocacy is an integral part of what we do as educators. Often, it isn't something we're formally taught—it develops through our teaching practice, curriculum, school culture, conversations, and experiences. While every art educator's advocacy journey looks different, the ways we choose to share our work can have a lasting impact on our students, our schools, and our profession.

One meaningful way to advocate for art education is by sharing your ideas through *SchoolArts*. The thought of writing an article can feel intimidating, but as educators, we're already skilled at thinking about our audience. Every day we reflect, adapt, and tell the story of learning in our classrooms. Writing simply extends that story beyond our own walls. You'll never know whose teaching practice you might inspire until you share it.

Here are ten reasons publishing should become part of your professional journey.

Photos from "Steamroller Printmaking: Collaboration in Action" *(May 2026 issue).*

Reason #1

Nurture Your Teaching Practice

There are many ways to share your ideas—through a blog, newspaper, interview, or magazine. For example, *SchoolArts* provides an approachable entry point with its ClipCards. A ClipCard is a concise lesson plan featuring an Essential Question, lesson objective, materials used, assessment suggestion, and examples of student artwork.

The process of writing about a lesson encourages you to reflect on what made it successful and why it mattered. That reflection often strengthens future instruction as much as the publication itself.

Reason #2

Increase Student Impact

Students need encouragement and opportunities to recognize that their artwork is valued. Seeing their creations published not only brings a smile to their faces but also reinforces that their ideas deserve to be seen and celebrated.

SchoolArts welcomes articles from early childhood through high school, covering topics that range from storytelling and empathy to digital literacy and contemporary art. Our themes are intentionally broad, creating opportunities for educators at every grade level to contribute their unique perspectives.

Reason #3

Improve School Culture

Have you ever walked into a school and felt that something was missing? Sometimes it's the visible presence of student creativity.

Displaying student artwork throughout a school transforms hallways and shared spaces into celebrations of learning. Publishing takes that visibility even further. Printing and displaying your published articles and ClipCards in classrooms, libraries, and hallways invites students, families, colleagues, and administrators to see the meaningful work happening in your art room.

It sends a powerful message: creativity matters, and so does the work your students are doing.

Reason #4

Gain District-Level Recognition

Students are often recognized for their accomplishments through exhibitions, awards, and special programs. Art educators deserve recognition as well.

The work you do is noticed, even when it doesn't always feel that way. Sharing your ideas publicly takes courage, but each article builds confidence and expands your professional presence. One small step can lead to opportunities you never expected.

Reason #5

Spark Future Presentation Ideas

Every art educator has a favorite lesson, the one students remember long after the project is finished.

That lesson may also become a compelling article, complete with classroom stories, photographs, and reflections on student learning. Many published articles eventually grow into presentations for state art education associations or the National Art Education Association Convention.

Publishing gives you a professional artifact that can open doors to speaking, presenting, and sharing your expertise with even larger audiences.

Reason #6

Support Leadership Development

Being visible and engaged is an important part of being an art educator. Although our classrooms may be different, we often face similar challenges and celebrate similar successes.

Publishing helps amplify your voice while developing your confidence as a communicator and leader. Sharing your experiences contributes to the broader conversation about art education and strengthens advocacy for the profession.

Top: Photo from "The TAB Studio: Building Self-Esteem though Teamwork" (*May 2026 issue). Middle: Photo from* "Even Bigger than Us: Imaginary Portraiture Inspired by Mickalene Thomas" (*March 2026 issue). Bottom: Photo from* "Creative Collaborations Across the Campus" (*May 2026 issue).*

Reason #7

Your Voice Matters

Stepping outside the comfort of your art room isn't always easy. Many art educators spend much of their day working independently, making it easy to underestimate the value of their experiences.

Whether you've been teaching for one year or twenty-five, your perspective matters. You are an expert on your students, your classroom, and your teaching practice. By sharing what you've learned, you contribute to a national conversation that helps strengthen art education for everyone.

Reason #8

Transform Isolation into Community

Art educators teach in rural, suburban, and urban schools. Some are the only art educator in their school, while others work alongside large departments. Regardless of the setting, teaching can sometimes feel isolating.

Publishing reminds us that we are part of something much larger. It creates connections between educators across the country, fostering conversations, collaboration, and a sense of community that extends well beyond our own classrooms.

Reason #9

Enhance Professional Well-Being

There is something special about reading an article written by another art educator.

You discover new approaches to familiar challenges, gain fresh perspectives on curriculum, and find inspiration in someone else's classroom experience. Those shared ideas encourage reflection and remind us that we're continually growing as educators.

Just as importantly, they reinforce something we all need to hear from time to time—you are not alone.

Reason #10

Strengthen Your Professional Identity

Publishing encourages you to embrace your voice, your ideas, and your unique teaching philosophy.

I still remember the first article I wrote for *SchoolArts*, "The Germ Project" (January 2016). It grew from a simple conversation with another art educator during our state conference. That discussion evolved into a collaborative project involving elementary, middle school, high school, and university educators.

One conversation became one article. One article became a lasting professional milestone.

As your career continues to evolve, so will your understanding of who you are as an educator. Publishing helps document that journey while building the confidence to continue contributing to the field of art education.

Submitting an article can feel just as intimidating as submitting a conference proposal. Waiting for a response often brings uncertainty and the fear of rejection. **But publishing doesn't have to be complicated.**

Every art educator has valuable experiences worth sharing. *SchoolArts* is written by art educators, for art educators, and exists to celebrate the creativity, innovation, and dedication found in classrooms across the country.

If you've ever considered writing, this is your invitation to begin. *SchoolArts* provides writer's guidelines, essential questions, and annual themes designed to help you develop an idea and confidently take the next step toward publication.

Your classroom story may be exactly what another educator needs to read.

Check out the digital magazine!

Review the annual themes!

See the writer's guidelines!