

# Role Model Tote Bags



**Activity Description:** Our role models all possess qualities that we admire. After identifying why we consider someone a leader, we can draw on those characteristics as inspiration for our own leadership style. In this activity, we will be decorating tote bags that reflect the guiding question: What does a leader look like?

## **Purpose of Activity:**

- Encourage creative thinking through creative constraints (material, size, prompt)
- Synthesize learning from observing and interpreting artist's work by reflecting on the work's themes and its connections to the "personal"
- Encourage children to imagine their own art interacting with the world around them (connection between decorating and wearing tote bags in public and Wilfred's public art)

## **Quick Guide:**

Preparation Time: 20 min

Learning Time: 30-60 min

Age Range: 5th-8th

## **Materials List:**

- Blank tote bags
- Acrylic paints
- Paint palettes
- Paint brushes
- Water cups
- Paper towels
- Pencils



## **Setup:**

Prepare water cups, palettes, and paints when students are ready to paint

**Activity Directions:**

1. Write down a list of role models! Ask yourself, who is someone that you look up to?
2. Using words and/or sketches, brainstorm qualities about those people that you admire.
3. Identify one person to focus on for the tote bag and lightly sketch their portrait on the tote with a pencil.
4. Optional: Incorporate the words and/or images that you generated during your brainstorm in your tote bag design.
5. Paint on your tote bag!
6. Let it dry and then show it off in public!

**Tips for Acrylic Painting:**

- Put a piece of cardboard or thick paper inside the canvas tote bag to prevent bleeding.
- Acrylic paints dry quickly.
- Wear clothes that can get dirty. Acrylic does not wash out of clothes!
- A light layer of acrylic paint can take less than an hour to dry. Thicker layers can take more time to dry depending on the thickness of paint and size of the painting.
- Acrylic paint can be layered. Let the layer dry before applying more paint.
- Acrylic paint is water-based.

**Guiding Questions/Prompts:**

**Recommendation:** Encourage students to brainstorm their designs on a separate piece of paper and then select their favorite design to use for their painted tote bag.

- Who is someone in your life that you admire?
- What qualities do they possess that you appreciate?