“Not a Stick Drawings”

Objective: Use creative thinking to create a mixed-media piece.

Materials
- 9”x12” Paper
- Oil Pastels
- Popsicle Sticks and Glue

Motivation
- Talk about creative thinking. To help students warm up, try these activities.
  - Read the books Not a Stick and Not a Box by Antoinette Portis.
  - Flip through these Seeing Outside the Box cards, or make a set of your own.
  - Demo layering oil pastels to create rich colors.

Step 1: Brainstorm and Plan
Have students brainstorm at least three different ways they could turn their popsicle stick into something else. They should proceed with their best idea.

Step 2: Glue Popsicle Sticks
Have students glue their popsicle stick onto their paper. Then, have them write the sentence prompt, “It’s not a stick, it’s a...” with their solution.

Let the glue dry.

Alternately, you can have them write the sentence prompt at the end of the project.

Step 3: Add pastel elements
Once the glue is dry, students can begin to transform their sticks. Encourage students to fill the page with many details. Also encourage them to layer their oil pastels to blend and create richer colors.

Tip: You can glue the sticks to the papers prior to introducing this project. It will save time and promote problem-solving skills, as students will need to work with the sticks they are dealt.

Tip: Students may need encouragement to switch back and forth between colors when blending. You may also need to talk about when to stop blending.