

# Handout - Empty Bowls Project

Take This



Trimmed bowl – leather-hard

Make This



Decorated and sculpted bowl

Read

**Preparation:** Draw a picture of your planned design, sign the drawing and turn it in. Get a bowl.



Thinking about what to put on bowl



Draw a picture of a planned design

After the design is cleared by the instructor, get a leather-hard (still wet from throwing and trimming) bowl to work with.

**Handling the trimmed bowl:** The bowl will be in the leather-hard stage. It will have been thrown, trimmed and covered with plastic. Leather-hard pieces of ceramics are very fragile and can be ruined if not handled properly. The best way to handle a leather-hard bowl is to use a big bat and the project board that the bowl is sitting on to turn it over.

The first thing to do with the bowl is turn it upside down and carve “CBHS - Empty Bowls 2014 and your initials” on the bottom.



**Bowl on project board**



**Bowl on bat**



**Carving on the bottom**

Use the large bats only. If not handled properly, these bowls will bend or break.



**Picking up a bowl by the lip**



**A broken bowl from mishandling**

Sculpt on the bowl when it is resting on its lip (the top edge of the bowl). The lip is the largest surface and will provide the most support during sculpting. Remember the direction of the sculpture when the bowl is upside down. When done with the piece, the bowl will be sitting on its foot (the bottom). Keep this in mind.



**Bowl with an upside-down sculpture on it**



**Attaching pieces of clay:** Both the bowl and the clay being attached need to be leather hard. If the bowl is too dry and wet clay is attached, it will fall off the bowl during the drying process.

**Compressing the edges:** Remember to wet, scratch, and compress the attached pieces of clay. Use your finger to press the sculpture to the bowl and any of the sculpting tools to compress the edges. Seal all the edges of the attachments using this method.



**Compressing the clay to the bowl**

After attachments have been compressed, spray the bowl with water to complete the attaching process. After spraying the bowl, cover the bowl with plastic for at least one night. This will allow the clay to dry slowly and increase the chances of the attached clay sticking without any separations.



**Spraying the bowl with attachments**

**Covering bowl with plastic**

After your bowl has been covered with plastic for one night, uncover it to complete the drying process. After drying, bisque fire, glaze, and glaze fired the bowl. When completed, the bowl will be given to River City Food Bank to help raise money to feed the hungry.

**Use Cone 5 glaze on the Empty Bowls Project.**

**Watch** – the Video.

**Do** - This is when students put what they have learned into action.