

Art substitutions: Do you ever get frustrated when the first question Ms. Kurtz asks you is, “What do you want to make with the material you’re asking for?” (Probably!) So, here’s the reason I ask: because **there are lots of materials that can do the same job**—or maybe one that can do the job better! That’s why I’ve created this list of substitutions. Maybe you’re watching a video online, and you’re disappointed that you don’t have the right materials at home. Try a substitution!

Material	Purpose	Strength	Downsides
White glue—liquid	Holds MOST materials together. TINY!!! Amounts of liquid	strongest	Too much glue wrinkles paper and can ooze out sides = looks messy
Clear glue—liquid	Holds SOME materials together.	Medium—Not as strong as white glue	Too much glue wrinkles paper and can ooze out sides = looks messy
Glue stick	Best for holding paper together.	Weak	Not enough and paper can come apart. Does not work for heavy objects.
Hot glue—with adults help!	Fast drying—holds some materials together	Medium	WITH ADULT ONLY! Lumpy
Yarn <i>Would cut up strips of plastic bag work?</i>	Knitting, crocheting, weaving, decoration (Can tie material together)	medium	Fibers are loosely twisted
String	Lots of uses—tying or holding materials together	Stronger than yarn	Not as pretty as yarn
Thread <i>Would a pipe-cleaner, wire, or baggie tie work?</i>	Sewing. Can use to hold or tie other items together.	Strongest fiber for sewing. Weakest material for holding non-fabrics together	Very thin—too thin for some projects
Drawing paper	Anything--Best for drawing art	Strong various	Wrinkles if used for painting
Notebook paper or copy paper	Anything—collage, drawing, origami, painting	medium	Wrinkles when wet. Has lines
Origami paper	Folding origami	Weak until folded	Too thin for some projects Always square
Tagboard	great for painting	strongest	May have texture—hard to fold
Watercolor <i>(Can be made out of water plus food coloring)</i>	Painting	Weak in intensity of color	Transparent (see through) Color can be layered up to create more intense colors or use less water
Acrylic paint (house paint)	painting	Strong in intensity of color	<i>Doesn’t wash out of fabric easily.</i> Opaque (not see through) Color can be watered down to use like watercolor.

Anything in these color-coded groupings can be substituted for each other depending on the intended use. (For instance, it’s difficult to **glue** two pinecones together with a glue stick; but any of the other glue choices would work wonderfully!)

Paper can always be colored by crayons, markers or paint prior or after creating with it.

Colors/paint: can be made with watered-down old markers or food coloring. Gel food colorant needs less water.