

## AP Art Summer Research

The purpose of the summer homework in AP Art is to provide you with the opportunity to gather reference images, plan out your projects, and utilize the time over the summer to practice various techniques that you will utilize in your portfolio pieces. Here is a brief explanation on what AP Art is: What [is AP Art?](#)

An AP artwork can take anywhere from 15-30 hours to create. Choose topics that inspire you! Something that you find fulfillment in creating. Stay true to you and create work that speaks to you and your own unique personality / individuality.

### Research

- You will use YOUR PERSONAL photos to create original works of art for the summer homework and during the year. Start a google drive folder called "AP Photo Library". Build a personal reference library of interesting subjects, scenes, people, groupings of objects etc. Try to have a minimum of 50 photos of various things/places/people/poses/etc that you will use in your work.
- Choose several of the topics below to complete as summer assignments in your sketchbook.
  - For each topic you choose - sketch out ideas to practice different compositions first (you should know what that means).
- Capture the beauty in everyday things, find patterns in nature, zoom in to fill the composition, try unusual viewpoints, and look for dramatic lighting.

**Topics** - Choose a few to complete in the summer

Remember that regardless of the subject, COMPOSITION is most important!

- "There's No Place Like Home" – choose a very "Lived-In Room" to create an interior study. Use a viewfinder/camera to investigate your home, and create an artwork from a view of your actual home capturing a very "lived-in" moment - don't move anything, make the bed, or stage it. Show the life that was there, clutter and all.
- Be an ANT be a GIANT (foreshortening) – Create artwork with a vantage point in mind. Subject is open but composition is the key. For this assignment hold your camera at a very low point on the ground and take a photo of your subject from below (ANT). OR stand high above your subject and take a photo looking down. (GIANT)
- "Inside Out" - An Interior's Interior - Create artwork from an unusual interior space – hold your camera inside a closet, refrigerator, cabinet, car, phone booth, aquarium, dog crate, hamster cage, elevator, drawer, etc. try unique angles for an interesting composition.

- Gadgets - Zoom in on an interesting composition that minimizes the negative space with unique objects. Shells / Jewelry / Utensils / Marbles / Bicycle Chain / Instrument
- Piles/Clutter- Create an artwork from piles of shoes, toys, laundry, seashells, dishes, marbles, etc.

Media options for the assignments are open, and may include, but are not limited to the following: ● Combine a painting medium and a drawing medium ● Value study in Pencil or Charcoal ● Acrylic Painting ● Pastel over watercolor ● Charcoal over pastel ● Watercolor Pen and Ink ● Collage

### Research

- Visit galleries and museums - If you absolutely can't get to them you can visit many virtually (but it's not the same thing). Nothing is more inspiring and stimulating than looking at live and contemporary artwork.
- If you are looking for a fun art adventure, a wonderful day trip is: "Grounds For Sculpture", [www.GroundsForSculpture.org](http://www.GroundsForSculpture.org). Besides looking at all the sculptures, you can bring a sketchbook and start practicing forms.
- Create Lists and notes in your sketchbook
  - 5 Artists that inspire you - sketch ideas of yours in their style next to their names
  - 4 Solid Ideas or themes that you are passionate about to potentially become a SI (an idea you are investigating with 15 artworks)
  - 3 Media / Techniques you know you want to use
  - 2 Techniques or skills you know are your weaknesses and want to improve

### A few tips if you are purchasing supplies

- Michaels, Dick Blick, Amazon are all good options for supplies. (these are all items that you will use in college and beyond if you take good care of your supplies) Many students use a fishing tackle box to carry supplies, cheaper than art cases.
- Sketchbook!
- A waterproof portfolio with a handle, size = 18 x 24 or larger
- Brushes - a variety of acrylic and watercolor sizes and shapes.
- Drawing board
- Acrylic paints - a basic 8 color tube set can be "stretched" with liquid acrylics

**Sketchbook** A sketchbook is more than paper that you sketch on. This is where artists brainstorm ideas, experiment with compositions and layouts, take notes, etc. Look at these [examples](#).

More Food for Thought: "What should I sketch?" Here are some ideas if you don't know what to sketch in your sketchbook..... Again, sketchbooks are intended to keep you thinking about art all summer. You don't have to do the items listed, but rather use them if you're stuck for ideas.

- Visit a gallery or show and write about what you saw, include photos or sketches of the 3 pieces that affected you the most
- Sketch the people who mean the most to you
- Sketch yourself
- Sketch the flowers, plants, trees in your yard
- Zoom in on objects from nature and try to capture the realistic texture of each object
- Set up a still life of summer-themed objects and sketch
- Paint with watercolors in your journal
- Sketch the action of your life, fishing, swimming, water skiing etc. whatever you do bring your book and sketch
- Use the alphabet for inspiration and do a page per letter. For example: A is for apples and sketch all different apples whole, cut in half, seeds only, branches from apple trees etc.
- Draw the animals in your life
- Draw your home and the buildings you see around you
- Create a cartoon strip that illustrates your summer adventures
- Illustrate the books you read and the songs you listen to this summer
- Surf the web for art sites and write a review of what you saw, including pictures from the sites along with web addresses.
- Try to illustrate your emotions
- Illustrate words in a style that makes the word look like what it is
- Develop a texture collection using lots of different media
- Go to an art store and buy one new art tool that you can afford and use it for drawings, paintings etc.
- Interview someone asking them about art that has influenced them or made an impression in their lives sketch the person while you interview them
- Work on facial expressions and draw frowns, smiles etc. notice the changes that faces go through

See you all in the fall!!!

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