

AP Studio Art - Summer Assignment 2020

The Advanced Placement Studio Art course is a rigorous experience that demands a lot of commitment from students. While other AP classes involve a lot of study leading up to a final AP exam, the AP Studio Art class is different. The submission of the artistic portfolio is the only element of AP Art that is graded. Students are essentially working on their final exam (the portfolio) from their very first day of class in September until its final submission of all the created art pieces in May.

Because of the time and effort required to finish all this artwork, AP Art students should be dedicated to spending several hours of outside-of-school art making time every week, for the entire school year. Relying on in-class time alone to complete the art work will result in a student being only able to accomplish about 25% or less of the required art pieces for the portfolio. The portfolio may require much more time than you will spend on other AP classes.

To help you get a running start for the AP Studio Art class, we require you to complete a summer assignment. This is for you to become familiar with the rules and expectations of the AP Studio Art portfolio as well as generate a bunch of ideas and references to get you thinking about your artwork before we begin in September. It is **required** that you do these things before class starts in September. You will be tested on the reading and examples given, and you will be required to submit your writing and images in the first week of class. In addition to the ideas and references that you will gather below it is expected that you continue to sketch, draw, paint, sculpt, or make things across the summer to develop your own art-making process

The elements of the summer assignment are:

1. You must thoroughly read and become familiar with the AP Studio Art Portfolio Requirements for students. It will answer all the questions you have about the expectations and the process for the portfolio. Further details about the course will be covered in the first month of class but incoming students must know the **Portfolio Requirements** by the first day. The link can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/yahwwka7>
2. You must look at and read the posted examples of **previous AP Studio Art portfolios** on the AP website. There are examples of portfolio scores going from a low “2” all the way up to “6” at the highest. The AP website shows images of the student portfolio entries and the student writing about their process. The important thing to note is the examiner’s reasons for giving the students the score that they did. Look at and read these examples closely. The link can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/ydacgpz2>
3. You will take at least **300 different photographs over summer**. You may use a phone, a camera or whatever other device you have available. These photographs must be art or reference photographs that will be used to help you build ideas and vision for your portfolio. You don’t have to decide what your portfolio will be or the final artwork you will make yet. These photographs should be diverse, interesting, and well composed. Some points to know about good photographs:
 - No selfies, pictures of friends hanging out, or vacation snaps.
 - Practice going out to places or setting times to specifically take pictures. Make photography **the reason** that you are out there or setting up taking pictures. Don’t rely on getting photographs while you are doing something else.

- You can take art pictures while on vacation, but your photo must be interesting and different from other vacation photos of the same area. (The Grand Canyon is great, but is your picture of the Grand Canyon different and great?)
 - Create interesting compositions for your images, don't rely on taking pictures of interesting **things**. Make sure your **image** of the thing is interesting.
 - Choose different views, close-up, down-low, high-up.
 - Most of the photos are different. You can create a series of photos of the same thing for reference but looking at 25 photos shot in the same place is boring.
 - I have seen ONE MILLION sunsets. Don't use them.
 - You can take more than 300 photos.
 - Take a look at the first part of my youtube video critiquing student photographs and talking about hidden stories versus formal composition: <https://tinyurl.com/ybdz4pqv>
4. Gather **image references from ten artists** or designers that inspire you or are something you want to investigate for making your portfolio.
- There should be three or more images from each artist/designer.
 - They are high resolution images so we can view them clearly.
 - There should be a mix of old and new sources, both from your immediate interests and from farther afield. (For example, if you are really into manga-inspired comics, you should also find historical artwork, sculpture, and design, to complement your thinking around your favorite current manga comics. Try and diversify.)
 - Be aware that, as high school artists, many of your visual interests are commonly shared. (Disney, current anime/manga, video games, youtube demos.) Try and find some references that interest you that are more uncommon or not as widely shared.
 - If you do find a reference that interests you, make sure you do your research to know who made it, when they made it, and the culture that it comes from. You have to **know** about the sources as well as posting images. While wikipedia and other websites are good for gathering this information, library references are particularly good sources for information on older sources.
5. Write down **twenty five ideas** or concepts that you might want to create the investigation of your portfolio around.
- Each idea or concept should be made up of a paragraph of a couple sentences. These can be in the form of questions you ask or observations you make. It can be visual thinking, observations that you have made that you find compelling or things or stories that you want to emulate.
 - Each of the 25 ideas must be attempted to be explained to the reader and why you chose it.
 - You are not required to pick one of the 25 ideas for your final portfolio. You can always change your mind about what you are interested in while you are making the artwork. Just give us 25 ideas for now, that interest you.

By the first week of class in AP Studio Art, you will be required to have and share the following:

- You have thoroughly read the two AP Studio Art items.
- You have posted your 300 personal photographs in a folder to share with the class.
- You have posted 30 inspirational images in a folder to share with the class and be ready to explain them.
- You have posted a written document with 25 idea paragraphs to share with the class.

If you have any questions, please email me about details: hagertyc@hsd.k12.or