

AP Studio Art (Drawing)

2025-2026

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Due: 2ND DAY OF SCHOOL

Worth: 8 grades.

GOAL: To spend the summer exploring/researching a multitude art practices intended to expand your definition of the creative process both technically and conceptually.

NOTE: This is for the class “Advanced Placement, Studio Art: Drawing” portfolio, so make sure to put some serious thought and effort on this work. For many students, their summer sketchbook helps set the course for your “Sustained Investigation” for the upcoming school year.

GUIDELINES: All work is to be done in the sketchbook.

Sketchbook: The work is expected to be completed in your SKETCHBOOK. Your work “must” be done in an 8” x 10” (8 ½” x 11” or 11” x 14” is acceptable). sketchbook. Do not work in anything smaller. A new sketchbook is recommended.

Drawing (applied marks to create imagery) is extremely important. You may use a wide range of media but avoid too much printed (magazines, printouts). If incorporating collage, be creative and apply your personal touch (marks, writing, selective cutting..etc.). However, you may include pictures that document art, and artists such as sculptures, instillations, paintings..etc.

- A. All work must be from direct observation of LIFE; no photo reference or gridding (no kidding).
- B. Make sure to be “authentic” in how you respond to the prompts. Your drawings must be from first hand perceptual experiences and observations; through your senses, memories and most of all imagination. Remember ART is meant communicate ideas; visual thoughts.
- C. Work across both pages in the sketchbook; front and back of every page. Glue paper in; **stain the pages** with coffee, tea, watercolor or acrylic BEFORE beginning your artwork.
- D. **Use a variety of drawing tools**, materials, and experiment as much as you can. You can work with graphite pencil, color pencil, pens, oil pastel, chalk pastel, paint...etc.. Feel free to include nontraditional materials as well, such as glue, silicon, tissue paper, fabric..etc..(avoid organic materials such as plants, rice or any other material that can quickly decay and bring insects or strong odors).
- E. Use **wax paper** in between pages to keep them from sticking to one another.
- F. Make sure to **Spray** (workable fixative) your drawings so they don’t smudge. (aerosol hairspray also works well to affix graphite and charcoal).
- G. **LABEL each page with the number of each prompt.** You may work in any order. Put the number on the lower right corner of each sketchbook page.

NOW LET'S BEGIN....SEE BELOW

PROMPTS

EACH OF THE PROMPTS BELOW REPRESENTS A SB SPREAD. Treat everything as an experiment. Be excited and creative. There aren't any wrong answers; be profound, personal, and most of all ambitious.

NOTE: Remember to label each page on the lower right corner.

1. **OBSERVE EVERYTHING:** Right where you are sitting, notice everything, record everything around you.
2. **LIGHT:** collect objects based on how they reflect light. **DRAW** the different surface qualities such as reflective, translucent, refracting, mottled, etc. Try to collect 20 objects.
3. **DAILY WALK:** Go for a walk and collect object only on our walk. Start a collection based on the first found object you see and your walk; whatever that is (based on shape, color, etc.). Try to collect 30 and document your collection.
4. **50 THINGS:** Write down (document) 50 things about one of the following: a trip to the grocery store, a walk in the neighborhood, a strip to the mall.
5. **SOUND MAP:** Sit in a location for 1 hour. Document all the sounds you can hear and the times you hear them. Mark the approximate location of the sounds in relation to the "you" on the map.
6. **CURRENT EVENTS:** turn on the local news channel. Respond to what you've heard on the news, the good, the bad and the ugly.
7. **CONSUMPTION:** Record everything you consume in one day/week.
8. **INSTANT SCULPTURE:** Consider that everything around you is a source for sculpture. Try making quick pieces using whatever you have around you in the moment. Document them.
9. **PEOPLE WATCHING:** Sit in a public location and document the people you see for one hour. Take detailed notes, make sketches about one item that stands out most about each person.
10. **WATER:** Study and document shapes made by water. Find as many as you can.
11. **ANIMATE OBJECTS:** Capture the hidden life of inanimate object you find out in the world. What do they do when there no people around? Track their activities and social interactions. Document them.
12. **OBSERVING TIME:** How would you document the passing of time?
13. **COLOR:** Track one specific color throughout the day. Draw, photograph, document. Do you hear anything from the color? Explain?
14. **EARTH MEMORIES:** What if the earth retained memories of everything that occurred in the specific places. Sit in a specific place and imagine/sense those memories. What happened? Draw whatever comes into your mind.
15. **TRANSFORMATION:** Find something and transform it. Think about how its transformation has altered our perception of that "something".
16. **SELF ETHNOGRAPHY RESEARCH:** dedicate a few pages to "the documentation and analysis of the "self" as a foreign culture, through field research.

Use yourself as your subject for documentation. Document in detail all of your movements, activities, behaviors, conversations throughout the course of a week, include date, time and place.

17. SELF ETHNOGRAPHY ART: Use your Self-ethnography research to create a series of sketchbook pieces. There are **4 double pages** total to do with this section.
18. YOUR STYLE: take a bit from whatever else you've done throughout this sketchbook and dedicate one spread (double page) to a finished artwork "in your style and medium". Be honest and open. Note that AP is all about finding your "personal visual language". Show me what you've got.

HELPFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

AP CENTRAL: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/>

CREATING TRANSFERS: <http://www.calsk8.com/zeitgeist/acrylicgeltransfers.htm>

Home made art tools: <https://www.pinterest.com/paintpaper9/art-tools/?etslf=10560&eq=art>

Creative art ideas (sketchbook or artworks): <https://www.studentartguide.com/articles/painting-media-process-technique>

Grounds/surfaces: <https://www.studentartguide.com/articles/painting-on-grounds>

THE SKETCHBOOK: <https://www.studentartguide.com/articles/art-sketchbook-ideas>

Dan Eldon's sketchbooks: <https://www.daneldon.org/about/journals/>

REQUIRED MATERIALS FOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT DRAWING

This is a partial list of the basic materials. You may add as needed.

1. Portfolio: A plastic, clear portfolio with a sheet of cardboard or foamboard so to add rigidity and protect the artwork.
2. Pencils and erasers and sharpener. An exacto knife is optional but often necessary.
3. Pens: both micron pens and ball point pens. Sharpie style markers (various colors) are always a good tool.
4. Brushes: oil/acrylic and watercolor...the more the better. Have one large brush for Gesso.
5. Sketchbook: hardcover, 8"x 10" or 11"x 14"
6. Basic acrylic set: black, white, yellow, blue, red, brown.
7. Watercolor set
8. Scissors
9. Your choice of Art Bin to keep your materials.

