

THEMES IN ART

For AP students & Practicing Artists

MAKING ART... WHAT TO DRAW? WHAT TO PAINT?

WHAT DO I WANT TO SAY? WHAT DO I CARE ABOUT?

**Artists create a body of work often focusing on
ONE THEME or PASSION or AN OBSESSION!**

**Many artists express their inner emotions by the choice of their subject matter
Art can be a powerful tool to express a message about one's beliefs.**

Artists must make choices:

A. **Technical choices:** selection of materials and techniques to create the work.

AND

B. **Thematic development:** creation of ideas through content focus, narrative or conceptual over-arching idea.

Find the inspiration necessary to create original artwork and to sustain interest in your subject matter. Picturing an idea in one's mind is a skill that can be developed. Artists create images of all types. Drawings communicate thought as well as emotion. Images can be sensory rich. Mine your imagination and envision subjects that are meaningful to you.

How does one pursue an idea? Select a topic you have interest in. Explore. Research. Experiment and allow for your idea to expand. Maybe your original idea will be abandoned but will have initiated new ideas. Try to keep consistent thought.

How might you visually describe yourself in the time period we live in?

What serious concerns would you investigate? Build from your ideas.

Draw from collected images. Composition will be most important!

Would your drawing have a moral value or provoke sympathy?

Perhaps your subject would be non-objective, abstract or imply a distorted reality!

It is important to study the great artists of the past.

What inspired them? What were their passions or obsessions?!

IDEAS FOR EXPLORATION:

Artistic Concepts Personal Story Belief Systems Mysticism

Ideas that initiate a topic/theme that may lead to your personal voice.

Environmental Issues

Spirituality

Globalization/Cultural Concerns

Current Events

Gender Identity

Discrimination

The Body

Feminism

Personal History

Time

Impact of War

Migrant Crisis

Contradictions

Falsehoods

Nature

Organic/Inorganic

Politics/Power

Memorializing

Multiculturalism

Marginalization

Family/Identity

Friendship

Importance of Place

Sense of Home

Scientific relationships

Real/Unreal

Metaphor

Non-objective

TED TALKS

Where does Creativity come from?

Taking Imagination Seriously

How to build your creative confidence

Kick start your creativity