

AP Art and Design: Photography Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Art and Design: Photography!

This summer assignment is designed to introduce you to the AP Art and Design Portfolio, with a focus on developing your Sustained Investigation. The goal is to familiarize you with the portfolio requirements, get you comfortable with your camera, and start exploring your creative vision. No prior experience is needed—just a willingness to learn and experiment.

Supplies Needed:

1. A camera (DSLR, mirrorless, point-and-shoot, or smartphone)
2. A notebook or digital journal for your reflections and notes
3. Access to a computer or device for research and photo editing (free software like GIMP or mobile apps like Lightroom, Snapseed)

Assignment Overview:

1. Understand the AP Art and Design Portfolio

- Review Portfolio Requirements: [AP 2-D Art and Design Portfolio – AP Central | College Board](#)
- Study the AP Art and Design Course and Exam Description to understand the portfolio structure, focusing on the Sustained Investigation and Selected Works sections.
- Write a summary (1-2 pages) of the portfolio requirements, emphasizing the key components and expectations for the Sustained Investigation.

2. Explore Themes for Your Sustained Investigation

- Brainstorm Themes: Make a list of potential themes for your Sustained Investigation. Consider topics, concepts, or questions that you are passionate about. Research how other photographers have approached similar themes. Take notes on their techniques and how they developed their ideas over a series of works.
- Choose one theme that excites you the most and write a brief proposal outlining your initial ideas and how you might explore this theme throughout the year.

3. Take Photographs for fun to get the creative juices flowing.

Weekly Photo Challenges:

- Week 1: Composition – Take photos focusing on the rule of thirds, leading lines, and symmetry.
- Week 2: Light and Shadow – Experiment with natural light, shadows, and reflections.
- Week 3: Perspective – Capture images from different angles and viewpoints.
- Week 4: Texture and Detail – Focus on close-up shots that highlight texture and intricate details.
- Week 5: Color and Mood – Use color to convey emotions and set the mood.

- Week 6: Portraits – Take portraits of friends or family, paying attention to lighting and expression.

5. Develop Your Creative Vision

Personal Project: Using your chosen theme, create a series of 10-15 photographs that start exploring your Sustained Investigation.

- Write an artist statement (300-500 words) explaining your project, your creative process, and what you aimed to convey through your images.

6. Compile and Present Your Work

Digital Submission:

- Create a folder with labeled subfolders for each week's photo challenge, research summaries, reflections, and personal project.
- Email the folder or share it via a cloud service (OneDrive) by the first day of school.

7. Critique and Feedback

- Be prepared to present your portfolio and discuss your creative process and learning experiences during the first week of class.

Have fun, experiment, and don't be afraid to make mistakes—each photo you take is a step towards developing your skills and artistic voice. Enjoy your summer, and I look forward to seeing your work in the fall!