

# Summer Assignment for Advanced Placement Studio Art: Drawing

During the school year you will be finishing two-three art pieces **every month**. Summer assignments help alleviate the pressure during the school year of producing the many quality pieces needed for a successful portfolio. Take this opportunity to fill the holes in your portfolio. The assignments listed here are the BARE MINIMUM of what you should be doing over break.

## Helpful hints:

- **Draw directly from life** instead of using reference photos, whenever possible. Drawing from direct observation is VERY important in making strong work. Do everything you can to work from life. If you must use a photo, take your own. Do not use photos from online. If you do use a photograph, attach it to the back of the work or into your sketchbook. Do NOT plagiarize.
- **Use quality materials** for your art. Good materials make it easier to create good work. Use at least 80 lb. white drawing paper.
- **Use standard sizes.** Stay within the 18" x 24" size, so that these pieces could be used for the quality section of your portfolio. (Minimum size for the drawing assignments is 8"x10")
- **Use a sketchbook** to plan your artwork. Make several thumbnails, jot down notes, glue in reference images, and do color studies when needed.
- **Use a variety of media**, even combining them for mixed media.
- **DO NOT SIGN YOUR NAME TO THE FRONT OF YOUR WORK** or place any identifying marks on the front as per AP Guidelines. Be sure to write your name on the back.
- **Visit the AP Central website** often to see sample portfolios and to become familiar with requirements. <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/studiodrawing>
- **Look at good art!** Visit the local art centers, galleries, art museums, and art festivals. Take your sketchbook with you, and render the work as well as your response to it. It is a good thing to jot down your thinking process in your sketchbook as well as draw in it. Check out <http://www.googleartproject.com/>
- **Read about art!** Read art magazines, such as The Artist's Magazine and International Artist. You will find these in local libraries. Check out books about famous artists in the library while you are there. Study the images in them.
- **Search the Internet** for artists dealing with the same subject as you. Study their work, life history, and influences. Allow their work to inform your decision making, but be sure that you do not copy them.

## REMEMBER, for the quality section...

Minimum size: 8"x10"

Maximum size: 18"x24"

WORK FROM LIFE whenever possible. NO COPYING FROM SOMEONE ELSE'S PHOTOS!

NO PLAGIARISM OF ANY KIND. All ideas must be YOUR OWN! Have fun. Experiment with new media.

DON'T PROCRASTINATE!

## Recommended Materials:

Please get the following supplies to help in your creation of your summer work. Items marked with an asterisk are not required, but recommended. Please see me if you need help getting any of these items.

- **Sketchbook**
- **Portfolio Case**
- **Drawing Pencils**
- Colored Pencils\*
- Chalk or Oil Pastels\*
- Acrylic or Watercolor Paint and Paint Brushes\*
- Your Favorite Medium\*

## Photographic References:

Take at least 100 photographs with at least 5-10 in each of the categories listed below. These will serve as your reference images throughout the year. Make sure the images are in focus! Do not use someone else's images no matter how much you like it.

Create a folder in the Google Drive using the following title **AP\_Reference\_Photos\_My\_Name\_2018**

Landscapes featuring sky, water, trees, rocks, and fields. Also, cityscapes featuring interesting architecture, textural surfaces, lighting and composition.	Close-ups of nature, especially flowers, bugs, animals, fish, people, anything you can find and zoom in on.	Texture close-ups. It should become an abstraction where the image is really about the texture, not what it is. Think orange peel, raindrops on a lake, sewer lid, etc.
Portraits: Photograph people and animals that mean something to you. Do complete figure portraits of people in action and portraits of head and shoulders. Use different lighting and vary the environment in which the photos are taken.	Still life objects that you find interesting. Farmers market vegetables, art supplies at the art store, utensils in the kitchen drawer, etc.	Miscellaneous things you are interested in. As you are developing your thoughts for your concentration, photograph anything and everything that inspires you.

## Drawings for Breadth:

Complete **at least FOUR** of the following observational drawings (or a variation on the theme).

The AP Readers (Judges), as well as art schools love to see a drawing made from life. Be sure to:

- ✓ Spend the time needed to complete the work.
- ✓ Don't just draw a contour. Use a full range of values, with deep shadows and bright highlights to create form and depth.
- ✓ Use the entire page, placing your focal points in the sweet spots, and running off the edges with your composition. Fill the paper up, using more positive than negative space.

1. **A self-portrait that expresses a specific mood.** Think about the effects of color and how it conveys the individual mood. You may use any style (realism, cubism, expressionism, etc.). Research online to study various artists' self-portraits and their styles and techniques. Check out Van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, Alice Neel, Egon Schiele, and Rembrandt.
2. **A drawing of an unusual interior** – for example, looking inside of a closet, cabinet, refrigerator, inside your car, under the car's hood etc. Include as many details as you can.
3. **A close-up drawing of a bicycle/tricycle from an unusual angle.** Don't just draw the bicycle from the side! (This could be used for RISD's portfolio requirement, but check their website first for specifics).
4. **Buildings in a landscape:** Do a drawing on location. Look for a building or spot in your neighborhood that is part of your neighborhood's identity. It could be a firehouse, restaurant park, church or any other building or place that you would miss seeing if it were torn down. Are you going to Boston, the Cape, or somewhere else for vacation? Find a bench where you can sit and draw!!
5. **Expressive landscape:** locate a landscape near your home or use a photograph that you have taken of a landscape. Or, you can also use multiple sketches or photos of different landscapes to create a unique one. It is best to work from an actual subject, so draw outdoors while looking at the actual landscape. Use expressive color to draw. Check out the Fauvists or the Der Blaue Reiter to see expressive use of color at work.
6. **8. Create a self-portrait, using your reflection** in an unusual surface, something other than a normal mirror. This could be a metal appliance (toaster, blender), a computer monitor, a broken or warped mirror, a car's rear view mirror, or tinted windows.
7. **9. Public sculpture: design plans for a public artwork.** Go to the Decordova Museum in Lincoln, MA (<http://www.decordova.org/>) to see the Sculpture Gardens. Look at the work of Antony Gormley, Sol Lewitt, Paul Matisse, and Steven Siegel. Make your project sketches similar to those that Christo prepares for his large-scale environmental installations. See his most recent project: "The Gates" in Central Park, NYC. <http://www.christojeanneclaude.net/tg.shtml> For ideas of sculpture and installation art in the environment, you can also look at work by Joan Miro, Claes Oldenburg, Louis Bourgeois, Barry Flangan, Auguste Rodin, David Smith and more.
8. **Café drawing (or any other local hangout):** go to a place where you can sit and sketch for a long period of time. Capture the essence of this place (local eatery/café, bookstore, mall, etc.) by drawing the people and places you see.
9. **Action portrait:** have a friend or family member pose for you doing some sort of movement (jump roping, walking, riding a bike, walking down stairs, etc.). Capture the entire sequence of their action in one piece of artwork. How will you portray movement in your work? Look at "Nude Descending a Staircase" by Dada artists Marcel Duchamp, as well as the work of Futurist artists Giacomo Balla or F.T. Marinetti. Check out the photographic motion studies by Muybridge.
10. **Do a detailed color rendering of a houseplant** or one from the garden. Zoom in. Remember composition rules.
11. **Do a portrait of a friend or family member (or their favorite things) in full color** (could be a pet). Try to capture their mood and personality. Consider doing a full body sketch.
12. **Create a comic strip about a social issue.** All characters must be original. Include text and color.
13. **Create an artwork that illustrates a story** or a person from the Bible or other historical text. Research contemporary artist Kehinde Wiley's work, as well as James Tissot's prophet series or Rembrandt van Rijn's biblical scenes.

## **Sketchbook (possible breadth or concentration work):**

Keep a sketchbook/journal throughout the summer. This book should include thumbnail sketches, reference images, notes of your ideas, media experimentation, and even finished drawings. Each page in it should be dated and numbered (but be mindful how this is done so as not to detract from the piece). Try to draw for 30 minutes each day whether in your sketchbook or on the required drawings. You may choose from the following list for subjects and journal activities or draw your own ideas.

Your sketchbook will be your constant summer companion. Bring it everywhere! Use it as a means to coming up with ideas for your concentration. Be creative. Avoid the cliché. Have fun.

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.	Create a still-life of summer themed objects and sketch.	Paint with watercolors in your journal.
Draw the action of your life, fishing, swimming, dancing, etc.	Use the alphabet as inspiration and do a page per letter. i.e. A is for apples. Draw whole apples, cut in half, seeds only, etc.	Create a cartoon strip that illustrates your summer adventures.
Draw your home and the buildings around you.	Go to the city and draw what you see.	Draw the animals in your life
Illustrate your summer reading books or the music you are obsessed with.	Try to illustrate your emotions.	Draw what you are eating.
Develop a texture collection using a lot of different media.	Work on facial expressions and draw frowns, smiles, etc. Notice the changes the face goes through. Do this with the flesh on and off (bones only).	Illustrate words in a style that makes the word look like what it is.
Opposites	Man vs. Nature	Outside vs. Inside
Visit a gallery or museum and write about what you saw. Include photos and/or sketches of your three favorite pieces.	Surf the web for art sites and write a review of what you saw. Include pictures from the sites along with web addresses.	Go to an art store and buy one new art tool that you can afford and use it for new artwork.