

AP Art History Summer Assignment 2020-2021

Hi, I'm Mrs. Welch. Maybe I've taught you? Maybe I haven't. Either way, I'm excited to teach you!

To be honest with you, art history classes in my undergrad were kind of rough, sitting in a cold, dark auditorium with a couple hundred other people, flipping through slides for hours and writing endless research papers was hard to do each week. The artists we learned about felt so far removed from my life and my identity. When I got to grad school I was dreading my art history classes. What transpired completely floored me, not only did I gain an appreciation for art history, but the artwork I made got better! My art history classes were all with a great professor. She made our history book come alive and that inspired me to try the same here at Nease. I became both more *inquisitive* and more *confident* approaching ideas and creative problems. Art History allowed me to reclaim and reconcile all that good stuff with a more mature sense of the world and a firmer grasp of history and context. We learn about the history of the world through art and in turn better understand our place in it.

I'm thrilled I get the opportunity to foster an appreciation for art history in each of you and hopefully help you to see what kinds of artwork you come from to better understand all the places you can go as an artist or a thinker.

The reason I say all that is because my wish for you is that you get something you are looking for out of this course, and I hope I can teach the course well enough to allow you get something important out of it. As with just about everything, what **you** get out of this course is strongly correlated to what **you** put into it.

The summer assignment is where this journey begins.

- I am going to do **ALL** these things too! Therefore, if you find them hard to do (Tasks 1 and 2), remember that I am also doing it and that you can look at mine too! **You will NOT be graded on the drawings, but on the reflections!** I promise not to share the drawings with anyone without your permission.
- You don't have to do these tasks in order. However, when you put them in your Google Doc, please **ARRANGE** them in order (Task 1, then 2, then 3, then 4). In other words, you could do Task 4 right now and do Task 1 later in the summer, as long as they are all done by July 31st.

Task 0 -- Create a google doc called "_____ (your name) AP Art History Summer Exercises 2020" **Immediately share it with me (now)** at megan.welch@stjohns.k12.fl.us You will be working on this doc over the summer, but I won't check it until you email me that you are DONE.

Task 1: Sit in a place with *minimal* man-made things. Bring a sheet of paper (or sketchbook) something(s) to draw with, and a clipboard or flat surface. Sit for at least 5 minutes before you do anything. Turn off your phone or better yet, leave it somewhere else. Now draw what you perceive. After you are done, take a picture of it. Put that picture in the google doc under a heading called "**Task 1.**" Below the picture, write a (300+ word) reflection about that experience. If you need some questions to help you reflect, consider these: *What did you find challenging? What did you enjoy? What do you wonder? What do you appreciate?*

Task 2 -- Sit in a place with *many* man-made things, maybe even an outdoor area with buildings and other man-made objects. Bring a sheet of paper (or sketchbook) something(s) to draw with, and a clipboard or flat surface. Sit for at least 5 minutes before you do anything. Turn off your phone or better yet, leave it somewhere else. Now draw what you perceive. After you are done, take a picture of it. Put that picture in the google doc under a heading called "**Task 2.**" Below the picture, write a (300+ word) reflection about that experience. If you need some questions to help you reflect, consider these: *What did you find challenging? What did you enjoy? What do you wonder? What do you appreciate?*

Task 3 -- This may be hard for some of you. Spend 48 straight hours without using your phone or a computer or laptop or a screen of any kind. (Of course, if your parents or your work need you to answer calls or texts for safety reasons, allow yourself to do that, but that's all.)

After you are done, write a (300+ word) reflection about that process, under a heading called "**Task 3**": including the TIME and DATES you did this, from beginning to end. If you need some questions to help you reflect, consider these: *What did you find challenging? What did you enjoy? What do you wonder? What thoughts did you have about yourself, your society, and technology? What do you appreciate? What else came up for you?* Please be honest about your experience with this task. (You are welcome to WRITE this reflection on sheets of paper and later take pictures of it and paste them in the google doc.)

Task 4 -- Watch one of these documentary films about art.

Each is very different, but each deals with the creative process, aesthetics, and the roles of art.

Helvetica (2007) (by Gary Hustwit) -- it's about fonts and design in general!

Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working With Time (2001) -- it's about nature and art.

Finding Vivian Maier (2013) -- it's about a female street photographer.

Sketches of Frank Gehry (2006) -- it's about an architect.

Cave of Forgotten Dreams (2011) -- it's about anthropology, art, and a cave.

Native America (2018) -- it's about Indigenous Americans throughout the Americas

*** If you find another one you'd like to watch, there are TONS of them on Amazon Prime Video and Netflix.

Send me an email sharing the title with me and I'll check it out before you watch it. There are many out there that have a rating higher than I'm comfortable with you watching without your parents being aware, so I may check in with them to confirm it's okay for you to watch them.

After you are done, write a **(500+ word)** reflection about the film under the heading "**Task 4.**" If you need some questions to help you reflect, consider these: *What did you find challenging? What questions did it raise? What was surprising about it? What were some memorable moments? What did you enjoy? What do you wonder? What do you appreciate? What do you take issue with? What thoughts do you have about art, artists, society, or aesthetics?*

Once you are done with these 4 tasks, send me an email with the title "I'M DONE." Since you will have already shared the google doc with me, I will then open it and read it. Thanks!