

AP Art Summer Assignments

Oxford Area High School

AP Drawing | AP 2-D Design | AP 3-D Design

These summer assignments are designed to keep your creative skills active, help you develop a strong body of work before the school year begins, and encourage experimentation and personal voice. Students should complete BOTH assignments for their AP area before the first week of school. Choose only one area of focus (Drawing, 2-D, or 3-D).

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/art-design-program>

AP DRAWING

Assignment 1: Observational Drawing Series

Objective

Develop technical drawing skills through direct observation while exploring value, composition, and mark-making.

Directions

Create a series of **2 finished observational drawings** based on objects found in your home or daily life. Avoid copying from photographs whenever possible.

Each drawing should:

- Focus on a different arrangement or subject matter
- Demonstrate careful observation
- Include a full range of values
- Show strong composition and use of space
- Be at least 9" x 12"

Suggested Subjects

- Shoes
- Kitchen objects
- Plants
- Tools

- Toys or collectibles
- Self-portraits using a mirror

Media Options

- Graphite
- Charcoal
- Pen and ink
- Colored pencil
- Conte crayon
- Mixed dry media

Requirements

- 2 completed drawings
- Sketchbook planning pages for each piece
- Brief written reflection (2–3 sentences each)

Reflection Prompts

- What challenged you most?
- Which techniques were successful?
- How did you improve across the series?

Assignment 2: “Identity” Conceptual Piece

Objective

Create a drawing-based artwork that communicates something personal about your identity, experiences, interests, or perspective.

Directions

Develop one highly resolved artwork centered around the theme:

“What Shapes Who You Are?”

Your piece may be realistic, surreal, symbolic, abstract, or experimental, but it should clearly demonstrate:

- Strong craftsmanship
- Intentional composition
- Personal meaning

- Risk-taking and creativity

Requirements

- Minimum size: 11"x14"
- Must include at least one element drawn from direct observation
- Include planning sketches and written brainstorming
- Submit a 1-paragraph artist statement

Possible Approaches

- Combine portraiture with symbolic imagery
- Layer text and imagery
- Distort scale or perspective
- Explore memory, culture, hobbies, fears, or goals
- Experiment with unusual surfaces or materials

AP 2-D DESIGN

Assignment 1: Elements & Principles Photo Challenge

Objective

Strengthen compositional awareness and visual storytelling through photography and digital composition.

Directions

Create a collection of **10 original photographs** that demonstrate the Elements and Principles of Design.

You must include examples of:

- Contrast
- Balance
- Movement
- Pattern
- Emphasis
- Texture
- Framing
- Repetition
- Color

- Perspective

Requirements

- Original photos only
- No AI-generated images
- Edit photos as needed using any software or app
- Print or digitally submit all 10 images
- Include labels identifying the design principle emphasized

Suggested Subjects

- Architecture
- Nature
- Reflections
- Street photography
- Sports or motion
- Close-up textures
- Shadows and light

Bonus Challenge

Try using unusual viewpoints or dramatic lighting conditions.

Assignment 2: Mixed Media Narrative Collage

Objective

Explore storytelling through layered imagery and composition.

Directions

Create one mixed media 2-D artwork based on the theme:

“A Place Between Real and Imagined”

Your artwork should combine at least three different visual sources or techniques.

Possible Materials

- Photography
- Magazine imagery

- Acrylic paint
- Ink
- Digital editing
- Hand lettering
- Fabric or textured materials
- Printed transparencies

Requirements

- Minimum size: 16" x 20"
- Must demonstrate layering and depth
- Include evidence of planning and revision
- Submit 3 thumbnail sketches
- Include a short artist statement

Focus Areas

- Composition
- Color relationships
- Visual hierarchy
- Unity and contrast
- Craftsmanship

AP 3-D DESIGN

Assignment 1: Found Object Sculpture

Objective

Explore form, balance, and creative problem-solving using unconventional materials.

Directions

Create one sculpture using primarily found or recycled materials.

Theme

“Transformation”

Your sculpture should physically or symbolically transform ordinary materials into something unexpected.

Suggested Materials

- Cardboard
- Wire
- Plastic containers
- Wood scraps
- Fabric
- Metal objects
- Packaging materials
- Natural objects

Requirements

- Sculpture must be freestanding or wall-mounted
- Minimum size: 12” in at least one dimension
- Take at least 5 high-quality photos from different angles
- Include process photos
- Submit a short written explanation of your concept

Focus Areas

- Structural stability
- Creative use of materials
- Craftsmanship
- Spatial relationships
- Texture and form

Assignment 2: Mini Concentration Exploration

Objective

Begin developing ideas for a sustained investigation by exploring a repeated concept in 3 dimensions.

Directions

Create a series of **3 small sculptural works** connected by a common theme, material, or idea.

Examples of Themes

- Growth and decay

- Memory
- Consumer culture
- Nature vs. technology
- Motion
- Identity
- Architecture
- Fragmentation

Requirements

- Each sculpture should relate visually or conceptually to the others
- Use consistent or intentionally evolving materials
- Include planning sketches and written brainstorming
- Photograph each piece carefully

Suggested Materials

- Clay
- Paper mache
- Wire
- Foam board
- Plaster
- Fiber arts materials
- Wood
- Mixed media

Reflection Questions

- What connections exist between the pieces?
- What materials were most successful?
- What ideas might you continue during the school year?

General Expectations for All AP Students

- All work should be original.
- Avoid copyrighted characters, logos, or direct copies from online images.
- Focus on experimentation, risk-taking, and personal voice.
- Strong craftsmanship matters, but creative thinking matters just as much.
- Keep all sketches, planning pages, and reflections together.

Due Date

All summer assignments are due during the first week of school.

Suggested Supplies

- Sketchbook
- Drawing pencils
- Erasers
- Glue or matte medium
- Camera or smartphone
- Acrylic paint or mixed media supplies
- Access to basic editing apps or software

I am excited to see how your ideas develop over the summer. Use this time to explore, take creative risks, and begin building work that reflects your unique perspective as an artist. If you need any supplies, please see me before school is out, or email me at vhill@oxfordasd.org