WESTCHESTER
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

AP Art and Design: Two-Part Summer Assignment

PART 1 - Sketchbook Assignment

Sustained Investigation: Formulating an Idea

Objective

A topic for a Sustained Investigation has to originate somewhere. This summer, you will need to dig deep and cultivate the ideas and the creative processes that you have been developing over the course of your years in upper school.

Brainstorm and document in your sketchbook words and ideas related to the prompts listed below. Be prepared to discuss your findings and answers in class when we return to school from summer break.

Directions

On a two-page spread in your sketchbook, answer the following prompts:

List these 12 terms in your sketchbook and write at least one word or thought that comes to mind for each of the following: (*make sure you respond to all of them*)

1. An Emotion
2. An Adjective (used in the example below)
3. A Specific Fear
4. A Societal Issue
5. A Current Event
6. A Life Altering Event
7. A Verb
8. A Joyous Occasion
9. A Specific Age Group
10. A Transformation
11. A Religious Concept
12. A Societal Myth

1. Choose **two terms** from the list above and **your response to them** – you are about to start thinking on paper – and write a complete topic sentence for each one.

2. **Formulate TWO Essential Questions** for each of the **two topic sentences** and write them down – these questions help you decide which direction to take your work.

3. For each of these two topic sentences, **make a list of 10 things** (people, places, objects) that could be used as subject matter to visually communicate the term and its response – imagine you are making art related to these two terms/ideas

4. **Using the prompts below (a-g),** respond in your sketchbook to **each of the two topics** you chose in question number **two.** (Note: *The answers below in bold are just examples*)

    a. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about this term?
    (<u>Chosen term:</u> Adjective: "Ugly" - Answer: Hate speech)

    b. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you consider the answer to your term?
    (Hate Speech - Answer: Screaming)

    c. What is the first subject matter that comes to mind?
    (Screaming – Answer: People protesting and picketing with signs displaying hateful rhetoric)

    d. What is one question (or more) that comes to mind when considering this topic?
    ("What makes a person scream hateful rhetoric?")

    e. What is one **artistic method** you might choose to visually communicate your term and your response to it?
    Ugly – Hate Speech – Screaming - Paint
    Answer: Painting of overlapping faces filling the page with distorted faces in putrid colors (pale green, greenish-brown, gray)

    f. How are the **materials** you are using linking your idea to your artwork?
    Answer: Paint in putrid colors – paint could be dripped or smeared to create the distorted angry faces – color choice represents the sick emotions and hateful rhetoric

    g. How are your **processes** linked to your piece?
    Answer: Painting with smeared and distorted effects offer the opportunity to mimic a screaming sensation in the features

Name: _____

Summer Assignment, Part One
Sketchbook Assignment Rubric: Formulating an Idea

10 pts. each

☐ 1. All 12 terms have written responses

☐ 2. Two different Sustained Investigation Topic Sentences

☐ 3. Four Essential Questions (2 for each SI topic)

☐ 4. 10 Possible subject matter items for both topics (20 total)

☐ 5. Prompts A-G answered thoroughly

☐ 6. Overall Fabulousness

_____ /**60 total points**

Part Two - Artist Research

Sustained Investigation: What is it?

Definition:

Sustained Investigation is the concept of producing a series of sequential visual compositions—compositions evolving from compositions—to explore in greater depth, a particular visual concern. This visual concern could focus on an idea, subject matter, elements and principles of design being used, as well as various technical aspects of a body of work. This occurs when you develop imagery based on your visual voice (what makes your work uniquely YOURS), whether objective or non-objective, based on personal observation, experience, ideas, research and applicable experimentation.

Simpler Explanation:

For our purposes, instead of thinking about your Sustained Investigation as a series of 12 works based strictly on one common theme done in all the same media (ex: "Abandonment" or "The Apocalypse"), like a DESTINATION. Think of it as a series of 12 works that will evolve and change – either in the concept of the pieces or the processes used to create them (or both) - one piece growing into another with evidence of thinking and exploration clearly seen in the work as the investigation unfolds. It is a JOURNEY.

Now, Let's Explore some Sustained Investigation Examples!

You will do this **TWICE.** Separate each sketchbook page down the middle and research two artists using the prompts below.

Choose **two** artists from the contemporary (living and working after 1920) artist list found on the last page. In your sketchbook – for each of the **TWO** artists (separate each page down the center):

Page 1:

Write a brief bio (who are they, how did they become an artist and where do they live and work) and a clear description of the type of work this person creates (photos of the artist's work pasted onto the page is always a good
idea) – elaborate on why you chose this artist and why the work appeals to you.

Page 2:

Identify the Sustained Investigation of this artist. This is usually found in the artist statement. The artist may have several bodies of work with different avenues of investigation – if this is the case, choose one body of work to focus on (ex: Picasso's Cubist work OR his Blue Period)

Choose at least 6 pieces and list the following:

- o Idea/Concept
- o Subject Matter
- o Elements/Principles evident
- o Processes/Media used

Explain the **SYNTHESIS** of this artist's concepts/materials/processes and how this artist's work evolves from one piece to the next. How are the pieces constructed? How are the ideas presented by the artist? How do these two things work together? This will require some clear analysis of the artist's work on **Page 1** of this assignment.

Page 3:

Using the explanation of your chosen artist's sustained investigation, develop an analysis on how this artist's investigation could be approached in a new and unique way. Think about how the same concept could be approached with a completely different medium, or how the concept would be taken one step further. Spend some time thinking about this and jotting down any ideas that come to mind. This could be done

in bullet point format or in flow chart format, or any way that you prefer – just let your ideas flow! Creativity is a muscle. We need to start working it!

Refer to Rubric for Grading Criteria on next page

Name: _____

Summer Assignment, Part Two
Artist Sustained Investigation Rubric:

	YES	SOMEWHAT	NO
Page 1: Artist's Bio	5	3	1
Page 2: Type of Work	5	3	1
Page 2: Artist's Sustained Investigation is clear and evident	5	3	1
Page 3: Analysis on New Approach	5	3	1
*Overall attention to quality of work	5	3	1

Artists for Sustained Investigation Research Activity

Nick Cave

Jeff Koons

Jenny Saville

Mark Bradford

Neo Rausch

Yayoi Kusama

Njideka Akunyii Crosby

Cecily Brown

Janet Fish

Alice Neel

David Hockney

Joan Mitchell

Kehinde Wiley

Bisa Butler

Dale Chihuly

Frida Kahlo

Luo Zhongli

Leonora Carrington

Lee Krasner

Vija Celmins

Kathe Kollwitz

Chuck Close

Rene Magritte

Georgia O'Keeffe

Romare Bearden

Hannah Hoch

Tara Donovan

Richard Diebenkorn

Ewa Juszkiewicz

El Anatsui