



THE STEWARD SCHOOL

## Mandatory AP Art Summer Homework 2025

- **due date:** Monday, August 25 (first day of school)
- **estimated time:** Around 15 hours (spread out over the summer)

Dear AP students,

Welcome to AP Art! I am so excited you are taking this course with me. As an AP art student, you are asked to emphasize research, experimentation, exploration, discovery, inventive thinking, and problem solving. The purpose of the summer assignments is to get a jumpstart in building the skills you will need throughout the year and to explore what topics interest you the most in your art (which will greatly help you as you work on your concentration throughout the year). Please remember, this is a rigorous, college-level course that involves a significant amount of work outside of class. Throughout the year, it is critical not only that you meet deadlines but also that you have invested a significant amount of time in your work, reflected and problem-solved until you achieve your best. In order to stay in the class, you need to turn in the required work when it is due on the first day. I look forward to a great year with you!

1. **Read** the [“principles and elements of art”](#)... They will be one of the defining criteria for judging your AP work.
2. **Sketchbook & Altered Book.** You will create a total of 20 pages between the two books (these may be split between books however you like). We will continue working on both books in the fall! At the end of the summer your sketchbooks should reflect YOU and your artistic curiosity. Emphasis should be on experimentation...include writing, drawing, painting, clippings, and collage.
  - a. DO NOT make “perfect” drawings. Make mistakes, make false starts, keep trying. DO NOT TEAR ANY PAGES OUT.
  - b. ALWAYS FILL the page you are working on. Go off the edges.
  - c. DO NOT abandon something already started. Go back and change it. Being able to rescue bad beginnings is the sign of a truly creative mind.
  - d. Always finish what you start no matter how much you do not like it.
  - e. Put a date on every page you finish
  - f. DO NOT DRAW completely from photos that aren’t yours, magazines, etc. Combine images and ideas. I shouldn’t be able to google it. The use of published photographs or the work of other artists for duplication is plagiarism.
  - g. Draw from real life a lot. Draw from observation, things you see in the world. In this way you will learn to translate the dynamic 3D world into a 2D world. Working from photos often results in flatness while working from real life leads to better details and a more 3D effect.
  - h. Avoid showing your work to others unless you know they are going to understand what you are trying to do in your sketchbook (so you can be honest, bold and daring in what you put on your pages).

- i. Emphasize exploring different ways of mark making- line, value, stippling, hatching... as well as using different materials to make marks. Also explore different approaches to drawing and combining materials! Layer imagery, try different materials
- j. Mind Map- Elaborate on the mind map of ideas that you began in class to explore theme ideas.
- k. Draw inspiration from the bag I gave you and incorporate these items into your art or pages!

**3. 1 completed quality work of art.** Look over the themes listed below as well as the links with example themes. Choose one to explore in this piece. Create this piece on an appropriate surface, outside of the sketchbook. This should be a good quality piece with evidence of time spent. Consider your composition and materials.

Ideas: Self–portrait, identity, journey, memory, stereotypes, time travel, social issues, community, connection, metamorphosis, specific feelings or emotions

[Example AP Themes](#)

[More Example Themes](#)

[Altered book page examples](#)

[AP Central Portfolio Submission Info](#)

[Sample portfolios](#)