

# Summer Assignments for Advanced Placement Studio Art

Summer assignments help alleviate the pressure during the school year of producing the many quality pieces needed for a successful portfolio. **There are 3 assignment categories: Sketchbook Assignments (20), Life Drawings (2), and Projects (2).** Completing more these pieces than required will only put you that much further ahead when school starts.

*A true artist finds interest in the mundane, if you do not like my selections than create your own.*

## Helpful hints:

1. **Draw directly from life** instead of using reference photos, whenever possible. If you must use a photo, take your own or use a photo from the public domain. Attach the photo to the back of the work.
2. **Use quality materials** for your art. Good materials make it easier to create good work. Do not do a watercolor painting on drawing paper, and use proper materials.
3. **Use standard sizes.** Stay within the 18" x 24" size, so that these pieces could be used for the quality section of your portfolio. You may work smaller 11x14, 16 x 20, 9 x 12 , 12 X12, 16 x 16 but try to do a variety of sizes
4. Use a **sketchbook** to plan your artwork. Make several thumbnails, jot down notes, glue in reference images, and do color studies when needed. The best sketchbook is the black hardbound 8.5" x 11" Basic Canson book with acid free paper, which can be purchased from Barnes and Nobles, as well as art vendors.
5. **Use a variety of media**, even combining them for mixed media.
6. **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.
7. **Visit the AP Central website for the portfolio you are submitting** often to see sample portfolios and to become familiar with requirements. This will give you insights into what students across the US are doing and what a 3, 4 ,5 & 6 look like. It will also give you an advantage into what the course really entails. Make no bones about it this is a time consuming course and probably the most physical work is completed compared to any other AP class. You must develop a rhythm, this process is not static it is perpetual motion.  
<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/studiodrawing>  
<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/studio2d>  
<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/studio3d>
8. **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. I always write down ideas that strike me, a sketchbook is an opportunity to "Draw Your Thoughts literally and figuratively"
9. **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.

10. **Search the Internet** for artists dealing with the same subject as you. Study their work, life history, and influences.

11. **Work as a team!** Exchange phone numbers and get together, set up a still life for all, model for each other, encourage & help each other

12. **Do not persevere on one thing**, if something is not working move through it.

## Part One: Life Drawings

**\*A project that I believe ISF would find interesting**

**Complete at least TWO** of the following observational drawings. The AP Readers (Judges), as well as art schools love to see a drawing made from life. Use charcoal or pencils 2B, 4B, 6 B or Ebony. 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, (not the center) and running of the edges with your composition. Fill the paper up, using more positive than empty 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, Frieda Kahlo, Rembrandt, Chuck Close

\*2. Still life that consists of 3 or more **reflective** objects. Set up the objects on a table, cover it with cloth, and place a lamp near it to create dramatic lighting. Your goal is to convey a convincing representation. Render as accurately as you can.

\*3. A drawing of an **unusual interior** – for example, looking inside of a closet, cabinet, refrigerator, drawer, junk drawer, your purse, laundry basket, inside your car, under the car's hood etc. Include as many details as your can.

4. A still-life of your family members' **shoes**. You should include at least three shoes - go for interesting shapes, design, texture, color. Place them in different positions. See if the family's personalities are depicted somehow

\*5. A close-up drawing of a **bicycle/tricycle/ or anything mechanical** from an unusual angle. Be inventive & clever considering occupied & unoccupied space. You are a very clever group. You got this!

6. **Buildings/On location** 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, or any other building or place that you would miss seeing if it were torn down. Consider going someplace that you can sit on a bench and draw!! This is about working on location. Going to one of our museums or even the Zoo, Elitches is a great place to observe as well.

7. **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. Look at Andrew Wyeth (my favorite)

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 Christmas ball, a faucet, mirror, a car's rear view mirror, or tinted windows. Check out Connie Imboden's photography work done only with lights and a baby pool (caution there is nudity). She also used broken and faceted mirrors to photograph portraits. Very moody stuff!

9. **Do an Escher like drawing.** Make a part of your drawing come to life like his pieces Lizards or Hands drawing Hands draw flat and then create the illusion that something is coming off of the paper.

10. **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. Look up Edward Hopper and see if you can come up with a plan for a moody on scene painting like Hopper.

11. **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.

12. **Create a sequence illustration,** a can crushing, an orange peeling, an apple being eaten, someone getting sleepy,

13. **Do a drawing of your lunch,** a sub sandwich in its wrap partially opened, a bowl of spaghetti, a salad

## Part Two: Projects

**Choose at least 2** of the following projects to create. You may choose any media or combination of media, including traditional painting and drawing media, collage, photography, or digital art. Digital art must be printed out. Start your project by developing each idea in your sketchbook. Plan your composition with big shapes, value/color contrasts, scale relationships, point of view, and lighting. Make use of the elements of art and principles of design with intentions. Plan it out! Solutions need to be fresh and unique instead of obvious, predictable, and trite. Show maturity in your work and risk taking **DO NOT TAKE THE EASY ROAD**. Part of being an artist is about discovery and a journey not yet taken, it should be a little uncomfortable! When you are uncomfortable you are on the edge of learning!

**ELEMENTS:** Line, Shape, Value, (Form), Texture & Color

**PRINCIPLES:** Harmony, Balance, Unity, Space, Continuity, Emphasis, Contrast

1. Create a series of 3 new artworks around a theme of your choosing. Consider this a **mini concentration**. Look at artists who worked in series, such as James Ensor, Andy Warhol, Stella, Mondrian, Matisse, and Picasso. You can also take one object and revisit three different ways, zoom, zoom, zoom!
2. Create a **comic strip** about a social issue. All characters must be original. Include text and color. Be original, authentic and stay within school appropriate platforms.
3. Create a **photomontage**, using Photoshop if necessary. Research Barbara Kruger.
4. Using media of your choice, design a **CD cover** for an imaginary musician or group, or for any local band that you personally know. It must be totally original and be packaged in a plastic CD case.
5. Research and create a **Pop-inspired work** incorporating personal symbols or words. Research the art of Andy Warhol, Robert Indiana and Ed Ruscha, as well as their photography.
6. Create an artwork that illustrates humor, we have a lot of angst very little humor. For example illustrate a Visual Pun, a Compound Word, a Metaphor, a cliché i.e. When Pigs Fly, Hotdog, early bird catches the worm
7. Create a **colorful design** for a handbag or other item of clothing. Research Tina Turk's bags, as well as the psychedelic art movement.
8. Create an **off-beat portrait** of a family member/friend using thick bold outlines and arbitrary colors, using paint and/or oil pastels. If you use a photo, draw on top of it with

oil pastels. Research Van Gogh, Gauguin, and Georges Rouault.

9. Create a new, artsy label for a real can of food. Use a **social issue** as a theme. Visit the website <http://artandsocialissues.cmaohio.org/> to see how other artists dealt with social issues.

10. **Photograph details:** close-ups of faces, architectural details, textural surfaces, interesting lighting and compositions. Check out the photographer Simon Lewis, Diane Arbus, and Annie Leibovitz.

11. Do an all white stillife, Create a stillife with all white objects, eggs, cloth, dinnerware anything that you can find. Look up white paintings or white stillife. This is an advanced project because it is about color, value and shadows.

12. An extension drawing, find an image that you like glue it down and extend it with ink, colored pencil, pencil

## Part Three: Sketchbook Assignments

In addition to using your sketch to plan your projects, you must complete **20 sketches** and spend approximately 30 minutes per idea. Sketchbooks should display forethought, good composition, exceptional craftsmanship, have mature subject matter (avoid trite, overused symbols). These include roses, eyeballs, mushrooms, Anime, rainbows, cute animals and cartoons. These sketchbook assignments should be finished drawings.

*Sometimes breadth pieces come from sketchbooks.* Choose from this list or Create your own ideas for your 20 sketches (you can do more!)

- Pile of pillows
- Fabric with pattern
- Look up words you do not know and illustrate them
- Insects
- Draw on top of an old drawing, an old map or a page out of book
- Man vs. Nature
- Close up of an object making it abstract
- 5 drawings on top of each other
- Transformation mechanical to organic
- Jim Dine: tools
- Negative space only
- Only objects I found at this location \_\_\_\_\_
- Non objective
- Oops, wrong color
- Contradiction
- Outside vs. inside

- Plugged in
- Extreme light source
- Refuge
- Extreme perspective
- Chinese proverb
- Social statement
- A tiny image repeated several times
- Café
- Park
- View from a car mirror
- What was for dinner?
- Laundry day
- Glass bottles
- Shoes
- Create a texture surface and draw on it
- Sink with dishes in it and soapy water
- Yourself in 15, 30 or 75 years
- Abstract drawing of a building
- Opposites
- Conflict of interest
- Layer it on
- Anatomy feel free to copy straight from the books, label
- Morphs (into animals, mechanical, technological)
- The senses
- Fill a plastic bag with objects and draw
- Metallic objects
- Autumn forest floor
- Threads
  - Something coming in or out of a box
  - Texture rubbings, then use them to create a fun / whimsical landscape.
  - Flowers
  - Sandals/flip flops
  - Fruits of the summer
  - Contours of friends & family
  - Draw with objects other than normal materials
  - Mandalas