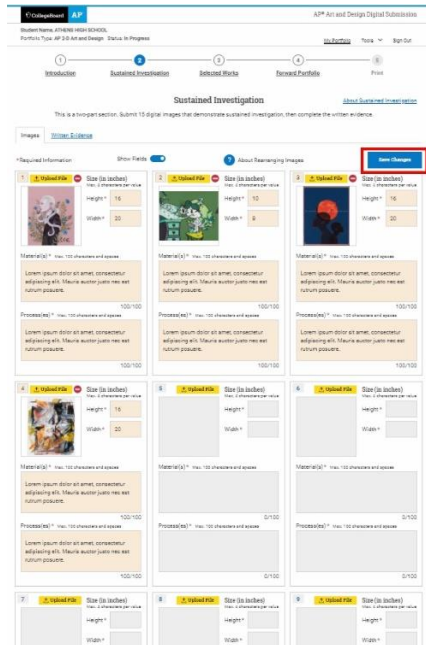
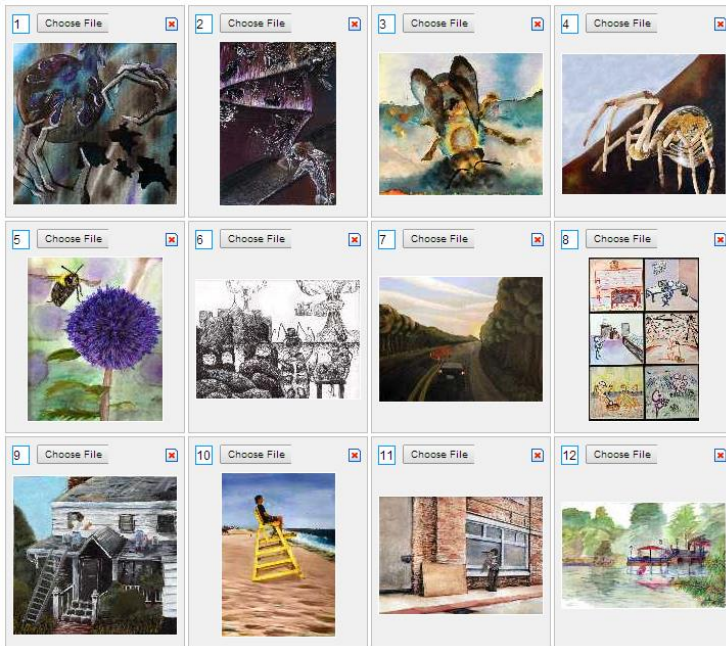


AP Drawing Summer Work



Part 1: Explore potential AP Sustained Investigation themes.

Part 2: Identify the Sustained Investigation theme/s you want to explore.

Part 3: Document ideas in a sketchbook and save reference photos in an album.

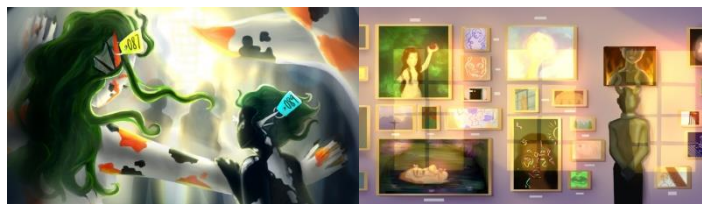
Part 3: Create two finished pieces of art relating to your theme. If you cannot decide between two themes, you may make one artwork for each theme.

Two finished artworks will be **due on the first day of school**. Please think about your theme carefully because you will be spending the entire school year working with the theme you choose, and you will not have enough time to change it once you get started. See resources below to help you get started. These works can be done in any medium, including digital, and must be at least 8.5 x 11 inches and up to 18 x 24 inches.

Tips for a Successful Sustained Investigation Topic

- It is not enough to focus on a subject (trees) or a medium (charcoal). If trees, why trees? Is it about growth? Negative space in nature? Protective canopies? Strength and endurance? Branch and leaf structures?
- Your exploration should go deeper than merely taking a subject and executing it in a variety of media or styles. Ideally you should develop a visual language that fits your idea, a style and medium and format appropriate to the theme you are investigating.
- A Sustained Investigation can be a series of works that are very consistent in theme and approach OR it may evolve and develop as the visual idea is explored, ending in a different place than where it began. In either case it is best to start out with a clear plan of attack; if the idea changes, the change will usually be the natural result of discoveries made in the process of exploration.
- Research artists who have worked in styles similar to your own direction or with similar subject matter. Do not rely totally on yourself for inspiration. Look at historical masters, contemporary artists, the world around you, and your peers to cross-pollinate your own ideas.
- If you choose to work in an area rich in cliché or teenage stereotypes your work must be very original. It is strongly recommended that you avoid topics such as blood dripping, skulls, large eyes, hearts, fairies, vampires, emotion through eyes, your girlfriend/boyfriend, sunsets, rainbows & clouds, or sad clowns.
- ALL images must adhere to copyright laws. By using original imagery or drawing from life you will avoid any issues.

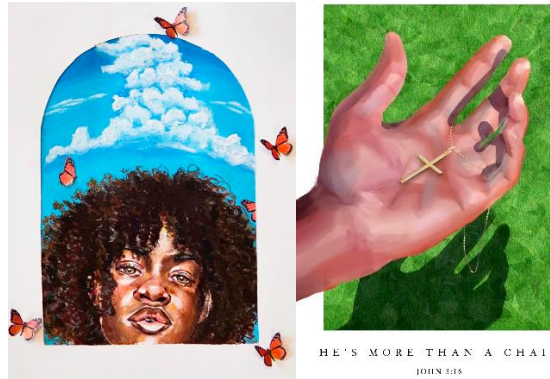
Successful Sustained Investigation Topics by Village Students



My sustained investigation is an exploration of societal issues through a lens of fantasy. It is executed with world-building and creature design, emphasized by dramatic lighting to express an array of robust emotions. The progression from day to evening symbolizing issues once considered fantastic force the viewer to come to terms with the issues outside of fiction.



As a member of Generation Z, I find it hard to connect with the characteristics attributed to my generation. My sustained investigation celebrates classic culture, old-fashioned traditions, and the iconic men and women who created lasting impressions for generations to come.



My investigation utilizes abstract ideas to portray a spiritual expedition, communicating the ebb and flow that come with understanding the character of God. My portfolio is composed with various biblical motifs, using a method of nuanced progression to replicate the timeline of a developing Christian worldview, from a bolded zeal to a state of introspection.



My concentration portrays the relationship between nature and mankind. I have represented the effects humans have on the Earth, both positive and negative, as well as shown the power struggle between them.



My sustained investigation unveils the realities behind different mental illnesses by exploring the internal struggles one faces. My pieces depict contrasting perspectives that illustrate distinctive mental disorders to acquire a sense of understanding of the mind.

List of Potential Sustained Investigation Topics

These topics are great starting points for the concentration portion of the AP portfolio. Consider the relationships, themes, and concepts as they relate to you and how they could inspire creative artmaking.

- Encounters, Experiences and Meetings
 - The meeting between mother and child / adoption / birth
 - The clashing of those who despise each other.
 - The shields we put up in our brains: the filter between ourselves and those we meet
 - The joining or meeting of two halves
 - Meetings between strangers...The million people we pass on a daily basis, but never connect with
 - Encounters with God
 - The clashing of cultures
 - Meeting someone who has suffered a great loss
 - A boisterous meeting between children
 - Celebrations
 - Meeting at a skateboard park
 - Reunion at an airport
 - Meeting for the last time
 - A life-changing moment
 - Focus on the senses (an event experienced through sight / audio etc.)
 - Something that made you cry
 - A déjà vu experience
 - Remembering an experience a long time ago: the passing of time / generations
 - The meeting of truth and lies
 - The meeting of fiction and reality
 - Encountering animals: the interaction between human and animal kind and our influence upon them (for good or bad)
 - Meeting your childhood self or yourself fifty years in the future
 - The meeting of land and sea
 - Physical meetings between two things: the boundaries and edges, perhaps at a cellular level (plunging into / stabbing / tearing apart)
 - The meeting of theory and practicality
 - How our own biases, backgrounds and modify/influence every experience we have: the influence of the mind
 - Truly seeing yourself as you really are
 - The aftermath of a meeting that never happened
 - Meeting temptation: the battle of wills
 - The meeting of technology and nature
 - Ancient man meeting the modern world: the conflict between genes and the modern environment
 - Terrorist encounter.

- Combinations and Alliances
 - A young child holding the hand of their mother
 - Bad influences (combinations of friends) and peer pressure
 - A family unit, in alliance against the world
 - The butterfly effect (how a combination of actions / behaviors leads from one thing to another until every tiny moment in a life is interwoven with all the moments that came before)
 - Political alliances
 - How 'good' people can complete horrific acts when lead on by the wrong situation and the wrong company
 - Still life combinations: salt and pepper, sweet and sour, fish & chips, apple and cinnamon; peanut butter and jam; the literal combination of ingredients used to make a meal
 - Unpleasant combinations we would rather not be reminded of: chocolate and obesity; that cute lamb and the juicy steak;
 - The legal binding (combination) of lovers: marriage / civil unions
 - Combination of genes: Darwin's theory of evolution – how traits are passed on etc.
 - A study of two people (or animals), or people who care about each other
 - You and the one thing that defines you
 - Twins

- Siblings
 - Mismatched couples
 - Mixing of light (light streaming through colored glass windows etc.)
 - Lock combinations
 - Combinations of numbers – gambling, addiction
 - Things that depend on each other for survival: a plant growing in dirt trapped in a hole in the rocks; tiny creatures that live in on the fur / skin of others – ticks on cows / hair lice / germs
 - Vaccinations and the alliance of ‘good’ germs fighting against bad
 - Eco-systems – the interconnection of water / life etc.
 - A trusted alliance: horse and rider; blind person and guide dog
 - Business networks that rely on one another
 - Uniting against a common enemy.
- Fossils
 - Highly accurate, scientific records
 - The layering of time
 - Disintegration and memory
 - Bones: the structure of life – the architecture of a living form
 - Fish skeletons
 - Archaeology and the documenting of fossils
 - Unexpected items as fossils (i.e. a fossil of an iPod or other contemporary object – remnants of a modern existence)
 - Dinosaurs / extinction.
- Society Today
 - Modern diet / processed food
 - Digital technology and the impact it has on our lives
 - Soaring depression levels / the psychiatric torment of modern man
 - Slowing down
 - More, more, more: ever increasing consumption
 - The mechanized processes involved in the production of meat: pigs in tiny cages / battery hens / images from an abattoir;
 - Disconnection from the whole: i.e. a factory worker who spends his/her whole life assembling one tiny part of a product, without having any input into the big picture: disillusionment with life purpose.
- Inside / Outside
 - Framing / windows
 - Blurring of the boundary between inside and out
 - Prisons / loss of freedom
 - Breaking in the exterior barrier of things i.e. injuries in flesh resulting in the spilling out of insides
 - Autopsy
 - Opening a can of preserved fruit
 - Pregnancy /birth
 - Shelter from the rain
 - The inconsistency between what is going on in the outside world and the inner turmoil of someone’s brain
 - The change in state as something moves from outside to inside the human body (i.e. food > energy)
 - An environment that is devoid of ‘outside’ i.e. fluorescent lights / poor ventilation...lacking in plant life...unable to see nature outdoors...the dwindling human condition etc.
 - Apocalyptic future: what will happen if humans destroy the outdoor conditions; or a wall is erected to keep an infected virus-ridden population ‘outside’.
 - The peeling back of interesting things to expose what is underneath (inside)...i.e. banana skins, seedpods, envelopes.
 - Vegetables or interesting fruit sliced through to expose the insides (things with lots of seed / pips / bumpy skin etc)
 - Something opening to reveal something unexpected (i.e. inside a cardboard box)
 - The Impossible Staircase: indoors blending into outdoors in an indeterminable fashion / a blurring of dimensions
 - Inside the human body: complex, organic form: the miracle of life (human anatomy drawings / x-rays
 - Inside an animal carcass
 - The human ‘outside’ – an exterior presented to those around us. The fixation we have on creating the best exterior possible: weight control/dieting; makeup; cosmetic surgery; latest fashions
 - Inside the earth: minerals / geology / the underworld
 - Sectional views through a landscape (i.e. showing a slice through the ground / inside the earth): mines / slips / erosion / quarries, with trucks and machinery taking soil and rocks away
 - Plays upon storage and scale, i.e. miniature ‘scaled down’ items inside other items, like large wild animals stored inside tiny jars

- Castings of the insides of objects – things you don't normally think about – that are then exposed for all to see
- Walls / divisions / outsiders
- Deterioration that has occurred to something as a result of being left outside (i.e. an ice sculpture that is left in the sun or a decayed, rusted, weathered structure showing the long term effects of the elements)
- Light streaming in a window from outside
- Kids in a daycare facility looking longingly outside
- Animals in a small enclosure: a sorry life in comparison to those wild and free outside
- Looking outside from an unusual perspective, i.e. as if you are a mouse looking through a small crack into a room;
- Inside a bomb shelter
- Inside is meant to equal haven / shelter: what if inside is not this at all: a crime scene / an inside that has been violated;
- In the palm of your hand
- The contents of something spilling out
- Shellfish or snails inside their shells.
- Changed Landscape
 - Erosion
 - Changing seasons
 - The impact of human waste / litter on the environment
 - Urban sprawl
 - Forests cut down to make way for new developments
 - The pattern of crops, farming and paddocks on the land.
 - A inner cityscape of high rise buildings – glimpses through windows to people living lives contained in tiny capsules in skyscrapers
- Shade
 - An intricate still life that creates shadows which become an integral element of the composition;
 - Translucent sculptures
 - Images containing only shadow (without the source object)
 - Woven shadows
 - Overlapping shadows from multiple light sources
 - Shadows that are not of the object shown
 - A dark alleyway or other location where the lighting conditions are dramatic
 - Photographs of paper sculptures: artificial manipulation of form to explore light and shadow
 - Skin color
 - A monochromatic subject, with the emphasis on tone (light & shade) rather than color
 - Sunhats and sunscreen / skin cancer
 - Buildings with visible shading screens built into the facade.
- Playing
 - Young children playing with toys
 - A family playing a card or board game
 - Playing in water – or at the beach, with a bucket and spade in the sand
 - Sports – competitive playing
 - Dress up games
 - A young child putting up make-up in the mirror (playing at the imitation of adults)
 - An early childhood education scene
 - Playing gone wrong: an injured child / fighting children
- Folding Structures
 - Origami
 - Paper airplanes (see Christina Epedocles and Ali Page)
 - Paper bags (see the painting by Karen Appleton)
 - Architectural models
 - Folding architectural structures
 - Tents
 - Beach chairs
 - Weaving.
- People – Ordinary and/or extraordinary
 - People engaged in ordinary mindless actions, i.e. brushing teeth, doing one's hair, eating breakfast
 - Scars / tattoos / deformities that are out of the ordinary
 - The vices of ordinary people (cigarette smoking, alcoholism, food addiction etc)
 - Portraits of really 'plain' people – seeing the beauty in the ordinary

- The facades / layers people build up around themselves to make themselves seem extraordinary – make-up, fashion accessories etc
- A person of extraordinary importance in your life (your mother or grandmother etc)
- Ordinary people who have extraordinary roles (i.e. a firefighter)
- The extraordinary
- Merging images of people with other objects to make fantastical creatures
- The desperate attempts or lengths someone will go to become extraordinary
- Depictions of ordinary people, so that they look eerie and extraordinary, like the awesome artworks by Loretta Lux;
- Here and Now
 - The impact of digital technology on modern live
 - Advances in preventative health and medicine
 - The prevalence of natural disasters in recent times
 - The mechanics of an old clock
 - A topical issue, such as food addiction
- Arrival / Departure
 - Birth
 - Death
 - Train stations / Airports / Looking out windows at that which is left behind
 - Divorce / departure of a parent
 - Parents who leave their children
 - Recovering from a departure / coping mechanisms
 - First day at school (or some other place)
 - Feet walking away
 - A decaying, decrepit building after the departure of the occupants
 - A look at building entrances and exits
 - Motorway exits
 - Maps / subway routes / directions for travelers
- Fruit, vegetables and gardening tools placed in a setting of your choice
 - A freshly harvested outdoor setting
 - A farm-like scene with wooden crates / indoor wooden shed
 - Vegetables stored for animals
 - Vegetables hanging to dry, i.e. onions / garlic with tools leaning nearby
 - A kitchen scene
 - A fruit and vege shop
 - A bustling marketplace
 - Preserving fruit – knives / chopped fruit / preserves in glass jars
 - Fruit, vegies and tools in an unexpected location, i.e. hanging in plastic bags
 - Abstract works derived from the patterns on the skin of fruit and vegetables or the interiors that have been sliced open with knives
 - The brutal smashing of a watermelon or some other fruit or vegetable with a hammer
 - The hanging of decaying fruit and vegetables
- Time-Honored
 - Wedding traditions
 - Birthday celebrations
 - Religious rituals
 - Guy Fawkes
 - Christenings; AP Concentration Ideas
 - Encounters, Experiences and Meetings
 - The meeting between mother and child / adoption / birth

Begin Creating

Please write down themes that interest you. Save reference photos and research artists who have created work based on a similar theme. Begin working on two artworks that represent the theme you like the most. If you cannot decide on one theme, you may create one piece of art for two themes.