

AP STUDIO ART SUMMER ASSIGNMENT SUSTAINED INVESTIGATION

A sustained investigation is defined as “a body of work unified by an underlying idea that has visual coherence.” In this section, you are asked to demonstrate your personal commitment to a specific idea or mode of working. To do this, you should present an aspect of your work or a specific project in which you have invested considerable time, effort, and thought. The work you submit must have a **focus and direction**. **During the school year, you will produce 18 sustained investigation original and creative art works from which you will choose 15 for your portfolio.**

When you present your sustained investigation section you will need to answer these two questions. Your answers should be brief – one to five sentences!

1. What is the central idea of your sustained investigation?
2. How does the work in your sustained investigation demonstrate the exploration of your idea? You may refer to specific digital images as examples.

A sustained investigation IS A BODY OF RELATED WORKS THAT:

- Is based on your individual interest in a particular idea expressed visually
- Is focused on a process of investigation, growth, or discovery
- Shows the development of a visual language
- Is unified with an underlying idea that has visual coherence
- Grows out of a specific plan of action or investigation

A sustained investigation IS NOT:

- Works produced from class projects
- A collection of works with different intents
- A group project or collaboration
- A collection of works derived from other people’s photographs
- A series that just explores a medium, without a strong underlying visual idea
- A project that just takes long to complete

IN SCORING SUSTAINED INVESTIGATION, THERE ARE FOUR MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN:

- Coherence and/or development-is the work presented actually a sustained investigation?
- Quality of the concept/idea represented-is there evidence of thinking and focus?
- Degrees of development and investigation that is evident in the work-including the amount of work or number of pieces represented.
- Quality of the work in both concept and technique.

EXCELLENT SUSTAINED INVESTIGATION:

- There is an unmistakable connection between the idea of the sustained investigation and the work presented.
- The sustained investigation engages the viewer with the work and idea.
- Mastery of drawing techniques is strong to excellent.
- The work shows informed risk-taking and development beyond technical concerns.
- The work demonstrates an original vision.
- Overall, the work is of excellent quality.

HINTS FOR SUCCESS:

- Suggested working methods for accuracy, originality, and creativity:
 1. BEST: work from life (still life, family, friends, mirror)
 2. 2nd BEST: combine three photographs to create a unique work of art. Never copy from just one photograph or work of art
 3. 3rd BEST: work from a photograph you shot or set up
 4. 4th BEST: enlarge a small section from a photograph. It needs to show a significant difference from the original.
- Work about 10-15 hours on each project – spread out over many days.
- Choose a different color theory each time you work. It is helpful to look at colors used by artists and duplicate how they use color. (Picasso)
- Use materials you already know how to use.
- Show a full range with high contrast (in black/white or color).
- Have unique compositions. Use **ASYMMETRY** instead of symmetry. Create movement that lead to an area of emphasis. Remember the Golden Mean. Diagonals are more dynamic than vertical and horizontals. Avoid putting emphasis in the center (bull’s eye affect). Consider the positive as well as the negative space to create a dynamic composition.
- Work in layers. Most students stop before they are finished. Allow time for media to dry to add layers and depth to your work.
- Avoid “teenage stereotypes” like blood dripping, comic book style drawings, mushrooms, graffiti type lettering, large eyes, fashion models, muscle men, sunsets over mountains, rainbows, butterflies, and the quintessential 😊.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: You will need to choose three possible sustained investigations. For each investigation, you need to answer the questions: what is the central idea of your sustained investigation, how do you envision your investigation progressing, and what process and mediums do you project using? (Realize that this may evolve and change as you work on your sustained investigation.) For each possible investigation you will create three thumbnails of the first three projected projects. Label each thumbnail with medium, size, and process (how will you create this project – still life, photographs, references, etc.) After turning in this assignment, you will schedule a conference with teachers and choose one of your concepts.

SELF EVALUATION

Requirements	Points Possible
1. Finished on Time	10
2. Concept (1)	30
3. Concept (2)	30
4. Concept (3)	30
5.	
6.	
7. Craftsmanship	
8. Effort	
Total Points	100