

**“The advice I like to give young artists, or really anybody who’ll listen to me, is not to wait around for inspiration. Inspiration is for amateurs; the rest of just show up and get to work. If you wait around for the clouds to part and a bolt of lightning to strike you in the brain, you are not going to make an awful lot of artwork. All the best ideas come out of the process; they come out of the work itself. Things occur to you. If you’re sitting around trying to dream up a great art idea, you can sit there a long time before anything happens. But if you just get to work, something will occur to you and something else will occur to you and something else that you reject will push you in another direction. Inspiration is absolutely unnecessary and somehow deceptive. You feel like you need this great idea before you can get down to work, and I find that’s almost never the case.”**

**- Chuck Close, American artist**

### **SOME ADVICE TO NEW AP ART STUDENTS....**

**-Take advantage of the summer.** Use this time to build up your portfolio. Maybe take an art class at the art center or attend a one-day workshop. Take the two summer assignments seriously... I have found that students who take the summer assignments seriously, maybe even producing an extra non-required third artwork are also the students who score the 4’s and 5’s on their portfolio.

**-Work regularly in a sketchbook.** You never know when an idea will hit you. Draw it or write it down. Cut and glue interesting photos you find or take yourself. These might be resources for future artworks. Maybe create an altered book (Google that to find out what it is... lots of info will come up). Think about your concentration and put visual or verbal ideas about it in your sketchbook/journal/altered book.

**-Don’t be afraid to try something new.** Try a new art medium or subject matter. Experiment. Consider signing up for an art workshop or class.

**-Keep working on something even if you hate it.** Work until you like it. This is good for you as an artist.

**-Don’t procrastinate.** Don’t start on an assignment the day before. Inspiration rarely comes late and your quality will suffer. Hold yourself to a high standard.

**-Set aside time and a place at home to just work on art.**

**-Keep up with your artwork.** Don’t throw anything away, including sketches. Keep it neatly in a portfolio where it will not get damaged.

**-Start thinking about ideas for your concentration.** Make a list of ideas. Challenge: can you list 100 ideas? Show me. Look around, inspiration is everywhere for an artist.

**-Look at art as much possible.** Look at art you like and art you don’t like. Ask yourself why? It’s best to look at art in person. Go to a local museum or gallery. Go to one if you travel, that’s a lot of fun. Are you afraid to go look at real art? If so, why? You’re supposed to be a serious art student! Are you really? Look at art on the Internet too... [www.artcyclopedia.com](http://www.artcyclopedia.com) is a great

place to start. Find contemporary artists and old masters that you identify with... artists whose art inspires you. Find at least three “art heroes” this summer.

### **AP Studio Art - Overview of the Program Information for New Students**

The AP Studio Art program makes it possible for highly motivated high school students to do college-level work. Students are required to submit a portfolio of work, consisting of twenty-four quality artworks, for evaluation at the end of the year by the College Board. A score of “3” by the College Board is considered “passing”. Some colleges will accept a “3” score for college credit unless you are applying to an art school; they usually require at least a “4” for college credit. Check with the schools you are applying to. A score of “5” is the highest score the College Board gives. The twenty-four artworks are submitted in digital format on a web-based server, along with your best five artworks, which are packed up and sent in May for scoring by AP scorers, known as “readers”. The more work you have, the better your chances are of receiving a high score.

Students with several AP classes state that AP Art is more time consuming than many other AP courses. Many of the top AP Art students who take other AP classes say that AP Art is the hardest courses. These same students also usually say it’s one of the most rewarding classes they have taken in high school. Of course, the work is different because it is of a “hands on” nature. You will get out of it what you put into it!

#### You will submit 2-D Design:

In 2-D Design, you are asked to demonstrate a conscious and deliberate application of design issues using a variety of forms. These could include, but are not limited to, graphic design, illustration, typography, digital imaging, photography, collage, fabric design, weaving, illustration, painting, drawing, printmaking, etc. Regardless of the medium, you should submit only works in which design is the primary strength of the work. Design works place emphasis on the elements of art and the principles of design.

#### **AP Art Studio Portfolio:**

The AP Art portfolio consists of three sections:

**Breadth** (12 artworks; submitted in digital format)

The BREADTH section displays a variety of experiences in using the formal, technical, and expressive means available to an artist. BREADTH in this portfolio refers to your experiences and accomplishments in a variety of art forms, concepts and techniques. Successful works of art require the integration of elements and principles of design; you are asked to demonstrate that you are actively working with these concepts while thoughtfully composing your art. These artworks do not simply use a variety of media, but combine a range of conceptual approaches and physical means of creating art.

It is my hope that the BREADTH component will be completed this summer. You and I will go through all 1000 photographs and select 12 of your best photographs that exemplify the elements and/or principals of design. Check out the following BEADTH portfolios:

<http://lhs.loswego.k12.or.us/z-mcbrides/AP/2014/14APbreadthconcentration.htm>

### **Concentration** (12 artworks; submitted in digital format)

This is an in-depth, personal commitment to a particular artistic concern. In this section, you are asked to demonstrate your personal commitment to a specific visual idea or mode of working. A concentration is thematic-based. 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. It is important to define your concentration early in the year so that the work you submit will have the focus and direction required for a concentration. A concentration is a body of related works that:

- Are based on your individual interest in a particular idea expressed visually;
- Are focused on a process of investigation, growth, and discovery;
- Show the development of a visual language appropriate for your subject;
- Are unified by an underlying idea that has visual and/or conceptual coherence; AND
- grow out of a coherent plan of action or investigation.

**The students who score 4's and 5's have well thought out and conceived concentrations. These students plan extensively. They also go through a thorough process of developing their final idea for their concentration. It is never too early to start this thinking process!**

### **Quality** (5 original artworks)

Excellence is demonstrated in original artwork. Quality is evident in the concept, composition, and technical skills of your work. You are asked to demonstrate quality through carefully selected examples of your work; work that succeeds in developing your intention, in terms of both concept and execution... flat paper, cardboard, canvas board, or unstretched canvas is acceptable. Maximum size is 18" X 24". These are actual works we send in to the AP College Board. These five artworks will be selected from either your "Breadth" or "Concentration" sections, or both. The bottom line is that these should be your very best five artworks.

**TOTAL= 24 or more high quality artworks.** The more artwork you have that is of a high quality, the easier it is to narrow down your very best work for inclusion in your portfolio.

NOTE: The teacher will take high quality photographs of all artwork that is worthy of possible inclusion in your portfolio.

Students who enter the AP Art Studio program are expected to be dedicated and serious art students who are willing to invest the time and effort necessary to complete a strong portfolio. Students should keep in mind that this course is for college credit; therefore expectations are high. When completing the portfolio, student goals should include trying to earn their very best score. A "4" or "5" will ensure them college credit, but usually a "3" is accepted by state schools. How much time and dedication the student is willing to invest will determine the final outcome.

**What AP Judges Want to See:** The AP judges prefer to see as much work as possible of real three-dimensional subjects drawn from observation. Please avoid TRITE imagery, which is overused subject matter.

The AP judges want to see you draw from observation, making the translation from three dimensions to two dimensions yourself. They do NOT want you to copy directly from other people's photographs because they do not allow you to create your own composition and work with your own ideas. Working directly from published photographs is prohibited. Do not work from photographs unless you substantially alter the image or you take your own photos. You could decide to start with an image as inspiration, and then change it using color, abstraction, or other interpretative techniques. **Simply copying photographs as they are does not produce AP-approved work; unless they are photos you have taken and composed yourself.** Photos, taken by you, can be used as reference. Be aware, however, that work from photographs tends to look "flat" since the camera sees with one eye, and we see with two.

#### **Other Info:**

Missing time in class will set you back significantly. Use class time wisely but be aware that in AP Studio Art you will need to work outside of class to some degree to achieve success. Major class assignments will be due about every two weeks, depending on the assignment. We will move along at a good, steady pace.

Take some time this summer to go to check out Art! Look in art books from the Library or Barnes and Noble... even if you just LOOK at the artwork and don't read the book that is a great thing to do! I encourage you to go see at least one art exhibit in a gallery or museum.

We will have group and class critiques. During these activities, you owe your full attention to your classmates' work. Active participation helps everyone. Students often get the best advice from each other. Everyone is expected to contribute. The best way to get valuable feedback is to offer comments to your peers. Come to critiques with an open mind. Others may not approach things in the same way you would, but outside comments are usually very helpful and can be insightful.

If you are thinking about studying art in college, use the summer to start investigating schools you are interested in. See what programs they offer. Look online. Arrange an on-campus visit. Check out [www.artschools.com](http://www.artschools.com) to get started. Let me know how I can be of assistance in your selection process.

#### **Material List:**

- You will need a digital camera or smartphone to complete the summer work.
- Sketch book

#### **Suggested Materials List:**

Note: These items are not required but you may want to purchase some of these for yourself.

- Pencils (set 4H, 2H, HB, 2B, 4B, 6B)
- Erasers (kneaded, pink pearl, plastic white, gum)
- Watercolors
- Acrylic paints
- Oil paints and linseed oil (cannot be used in the classroom, but they now make water-based oil paints you could use in class)

- Charcoal
- Canvas or canvas board (can be bought in a pad, too)
- Paper (drawing, sketching, watercolor, etc)
- Portfolio (to carry your work)
- Pens
- Pastels
- Brushes
- Colored pencils
- Markers

FUN is guaranteed. You will make new friends.

GROWTH as an artist is guaranteed also.

Students are encouraged to communicate with me via e-mail and/or Google Docs if there is a need to discuss a summer assignment.

Have a great summer! I am excited about a new year in AP Studio Art, and I am looking forward to working with a great group of students!

### **Summer Work Requirements**

You can no longer drop a class; therefore, if you do not complete the summer work, you will receive a 0% for the work. The work accounts for 20% of your first quarter grade and will be used for your AP exam. If you do not complete the summer, it will be made up during quarter 1!

#### **Check this out before taking photos:**

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/patchesward/7-tricks-everyone-with-a-camera-should-know>

#### **What you need to do:**

1. You will need to take 1000 photos. At least 500 photos will be dedicated to photographing the elements and principles of design. I have provided a list of exemplary photos for many elements and principals (check it out on Google docs). The remaining photos will be dedicated to photographing reference material. Think about images that you will need to draw and/ or reference for your concentration.

#### **Some ideas include:**

People taking on different gestures, Portraits, Animals, Landscapes, Architecture, Interior spaces, Perspective, Food, Emotion: pain, suffering, Country living/ City living, Poverty vs. wealth, etc.

#### **Items to Avoid:**

No eyes, travel pictures, leave on the ground, selfies, group friend shots, concert pictures, several pictures of the same subject, etc. You can always email me if you are concerned about the quality of your photos.

2. Upload your photos to Google Doc. You should organize your photos in folders, based on elements and/or principals of design and concentration subject matter.

3. Complete at least 25 life observation drawings. These can be portraits, self-portraits, figure drawings, still life, or single objects. You can complete these in a sketchbook or on single sheets of paper. The size should be no smaller than 8 x10; there is no maximum. You may also use any media you desire.

### **Grading Criteria**

1. Quantity: did you take 1000, arrange in folders on Google Docs
2. Quality: how are you photos? Light source, framing, color, and subject matter.
3. Completion of sketchbook assignment
4. Creativity: is your work interesting? Is it fun to look at? Does it “wow” the audience?
5. Research/ investigation: does your work demonstrate investigation of photography or life drawing skills? Did you go above and beyond?

**All work should be posted to Google doc and shared with me ([delongl@norwalkps.org](mailto:delongl@norwalkps.org)) and each of your classmates prior to the first day of class. We will spend the first week presenting photographs and critiquing work. I am available throughout the summer to provide feedback.**

**Email me at [delongl@norwalkps.org](mailto:delongl@norwalkps.org). Good Luck!**