

Art Assignment for Cultural Fest

Option 1: Create art that shows an understanding of the difference between Abstract Art and Pop Art. Be sure to create a NEW piece of artwork that is INSPIRED by these genres (not derivative of it).

1. Create art.
2. Write report that explains what you were trying to convey in your artwork and how your artwork shows an understanding of the differences between Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art as well as the time periods that produced them.

Option 2: Create art that shows the overarching themes of American Humanities class (see below).

1. Create art.
2. Write report that explains what you were trying to convey in your artwork and how your artwork shows an understanding of the overarching themes of American Humanities class.

Abstract Expressionism is less about what is on the surface, and more about what lies beneath. In the 1950's there was a lot of pressure to keep up appearances, to fit in, to be like everyone else. The novels *Peyton Place* and *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit* highlighted a growing desire in many to rebel against the ubiquitous conformity of gender roles, morality, and the constant pressure to climb the social ladder. Like these novelists, Abstract Expressionists were also looking for something more: something more spiritual, something more individual, something more emotional, something *more* true. According to Wikipedia they focused on:

1. expression of ideas concerning the spiritual
2. the unconscious and the mind: spontaneous, automatic or subconscious creation
3. emotional intensity
4. a rebellious, anarchic, highly idiosyncratic and nihilistic ethos
5. an anti-figurative aesthetic (no literal drawings of people or things). For example, California Abstract Expressionist Jay Meuser, wrote, "It is far better to capture the glorious spirit of the sea than to paint all of its tiny ripples."

Examples: <http://www.artlex.com/ArtLex/a/abstractexpr.html>



Pop Art: In general pop artists believed that the art world/abstract expressionism was elitist so they attempted to bring art to the masses by blurring the line between fine art and commercial art. Pop artists rejected abstract expressionism's focus on the spiritual/unconscious mind and instead focused on and openly embraced consumerism and materialism. Andy Warhol commented on and sometimes criticized the media, fame, and advertising by mass producing somewhat ironic/humorous images of

celebrities, every day consumer objects such as soup cans, and things like electric chairs, mushroom clouds, and police dogs attacking civil rights protesters. Warhol was not only at the center of a shift in the art world, but he also forced people to ask again the question, “what is art?”

Examples: <http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2008/07/21/pop-art-is-alive-classics-and-modern-artworks/>

Some of the texts and ideas covered in Humanities this year (not exhaustive).

1. The American Dream
2. Pop Culture Quiz/Presentation
3. Dominant American Values :Achievement and Success, Activity and Work, Moral Orientation, Humanitarianism, Efficiency and Practicality, Progress, Material Comfort, Equality, Freedom, Science, Nationalism, Democracy, Individual Personality, Racism and Group Superiority.
4. Active Viewing: Narrative, Mise-en-Scene, Cinematography, Editing
5. Situation Comedy Essay
6. *I Love Lucy* &/or *Father Knows Best* (TV’s Golden Age)
7. Your “Atomic” Book (*Fahrenheit 451*, *Alas Babylon*, etc)
8. Abstract Expressionism (your artist)
9. *Fail-Safe*
10. “Duck & Cover” and “The Red Nightmare”
11. *The Day the Earth Stood Still*
12. “A Perfect Day for Bananafish”
13. *The Zoo Story* &/or “The Wayfarer”
14. *Death of a Salesman*
15. *Peyton Place*
16. *The Feminine Mystique*
17. *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit*
18. “The Last Night of the World”
19. “A Dream Deferred”
20. *The Invisible Man*
21. Sex & Women in Popular Culture & “Celluloid Closet”
22. “The Fifties: Selling the American Way”
23. “Empire of Signs”
24. “The Fifties: Let’s Play House”
25. External Conformity & Material Comfort
26. Recognizing Themes (reading strategies)
27. The Golden Age of Film
28. Propaganda: 13 Evil Techniques, Logos/Pathos/Ethos, The Pathos of Advertising
29. 20th Century Video
30. Cold War Video
31. Invisible Man
32. Blues
33. Flamingo Rising
34. Rebel Teens: The Cyclists, Rebel without a Cause, The Wild One, Sinister Adolescents

35. The Beats: America, Howl, On the Road
36. The Graduate
37. Vietnam: Chronicles of War, Full Metal Jacket, The Things they Carried, Rainy River, Platoon, Vet Interview & Research, M.A.S.H.
38. Satire: **Dr.** Strangelove, Catch 22, Slaughterhouse Five
39. Pop Art & Andy Warhol
40. Soul Music Research
41. Folk Music and Bob Dylan, Plugging In, British Invades and America Fights Back
42. Making Sense of the 60's
43. Electric Kool Aid Acid Test
44. Black Shiny FBI Shoes (and Gonzo Journalism)
45. Hair
46. Hell's Angels
47. Being There
48. Network
49. A Punk Primer, Punk Video
50. Hip Hop & Rap, Bamboozled

Trimester 1:

1. Syllabus
2. How the 1950's (& 1960's) have affected your values today
 - a. *Pop Culture*
 - i. *Worksheet: Pop Culture Quiz*
 - ii. *Pop Culture Free Writing*
 - iii. *Hand-out: VH1 Pop Culture Great Debate Anticipatory Set*
 - iv. *Hand-out: Pop Culture Show and Tell*
 - b. *Dominant American Values*
 - i. *DAV Drawings & Divisive Issue*
 - ii. *Hand-out: Values Essay (Essay Pre-Test: give no help)*
 - c. *Active Viewing*
 - i. *Commercial Interpretation*
 - ii. *Video: "Our Time is Up" Modeling*
 - iii. *Worksheet: Peeling Back the Layers of Film*
 - iv. *Video: Anatomy of a Scene in Far From Heaven*
 - v. *Video: "The Implant" Seinfeld episode (Model Active Viewing)*
 - vi. *Video: "Race Card" The Office episode (or misc. modern sitcom)*
 1. *Student Groups- Peeling Worksheet Chart*
 2. *Write possible themes for an essay on DAV's in the episode*
 - d. *Essay Writing (for Sit-com Essay which ties into DAV's)*
 - i. *Model writing this essay for The Office episode in class*
 - ii. *Walk Students through Process*
 1. *Notes*
 2. *Free Writing & Recursive Writing*
 3. *Grouping, Big Idea, and Theme*

4. *Body Outline*
5. *Intros & Conclusions*
6. *Rough Draft & Revisions*
7. *Final Draft & Editing*
3. The Cold War
 - a. *Cold War Anticipatory Set: Cold War Password*
 - b. *Video Overview: "A Walk Through the 20th Century: Post War Hopes, Cold War Fears"*
 - c. *Fear of Nuclear War*
 - i. *Novel: Atomic Novel (on-going throughout unit)*
 1. *Hand-Out: TerrorismFearSuperFreakonomics*
 2. *Worksheet: Atomic Book Choices & Log (Check out book)*
 3. *(During the reading of Atomic Novel)*
 - a. *Short Story: "The Last Night of the World" (read on first Friday during Atomic Novel Reading).*
 - b. *Propaganda (Do 3rd and 4th week)*
 - i. *Worksheet: "The Pathos of Advertising Slogans"*
 - ii. *Power Point: 13 Evil Propaganda Techniques*
 - iii. *Video: Duck & Cover (Find propaganda techniques)*
 - iv. *Video: "Red Nightmare" (Find propaganda techniques)*
 - v. *Propaganda Assignment: "Turd in a Box" (Watch Extreme Carrot Commercials on You Tube)*
 4. *MANDATORY Test/Hand-Out: In-Class Atomic Book Exam*
 - ii. *Film: Fail-Safe*
 1. *Active Viewing Notes*
 2. *MANDATORY Formal Fail-Safe Essay*
 - a. *Reading/Viewing Strategies*
 - b. *Theme Strategy*
 - c. *Essay Step by Step Process*
 - d. *Revision*
 - iii. *Commie Mafia Game*
 4. The American Dream
 - a. *The Belief in the American Dream*
 - i. *Overview of American Dream*
 1. *Buried in Debt article (or any modern connection)*
 2. *American Dream Definition*
 3. *Video: "The Fifties: Selling the American Way"*
 - ii. *TV Reinforcing American Dream's Family Structure, Morality, & Gender Roles*
 1. *Lecture: Golden-Age of Television & fill-in-blank notes*
 2. *Video: Father Knows Best & discussion*
 3. *Video: I Love Lucy "Vitameatavegemin" & Clip Show on You Tube*
 4. *Video: Lucille Ball biography (cut?)*

- b. The Unraveling of the American Dream
 - i. Gender
 1. Video: "The Fifties: Let's Play House"
 2. Female Psyche:
 - a. Book: *The Bell Jar* (Two weeks to read, quiz and EC)
 - b. Video: *Celluloid Closet?* (Cut- Where is it?)
 - c. Essay: *Sex Symbols* (cut?)
 - d. Video: *Sex & Pop Culture Documentary VHI* (Cut?)
 3. Male Psyche:
 - a. Short Story: "A Perfect Day for Bananafish"
 - b. Video/Play: *Death of a Salesman* (CUT? Or show clips)
 - ii. Art
 1. Video: "Empire of Signs"
 2. Abstract Expressionism
 - a. Create Abstract Art in class (or give hand out)
 - b. Hand-out: Abstract Art Presentation/Essay (cut or EC)
 - c. Gallery Walk
 3. Theatre of Absurd
 - a. Play: *Zoo Story* & Edmodo Discussion Forum
 - b. Short Story: "Wayfarer" (CUT?)
 - iii. Race
 1. Poem: "Dream Deferred"
 2. Video: "The Fifties: A Rage Within" (beginning only)
 3. Novel Excerpt: Invisible Man Prologue (cut down)
 4. Soul Music (Beginning of 2nd Tri)
 - a. Song Anticipatory Set
 - b. R&B and Soul America Singing Article
 - c. Quiz
 - d. Soul Re-Searching Paper
- c. Satire (If needed, start end of 1st trimester, carry over into 2nd)
 - i. Satire Lecture & Examples (Colbert on Immigration, Ficus for Congress)
 - ii. Major Major Excerpt from Catch 22 & Guided Journal Response
 - iii. Dr. Strangelove film Analysis
 - iv. Optional/EC: Subvertisements (cut?)
- d. MANDATORY Multiple Choice Test (with optional "Time Life Machine" Project?)

Trimester 2:

1. Coming of Age
 - a. *Flamingo Rising* (ongoing through Rebel Teens)
 - i. Coming of Age Anticipatory Set
 - ii. Book Log (online?)
 - iii. Large Group Discussion

- b. *Rebel Teens*
 - i. Watch/Analyze *Rebel without a Cause*
 - 1. *Teenagers article*
 - 2. *Modern Day Rebels Anticipatory Set*
 - 3. *Sinister Adolescents*
 - 4. *Beautiful Brains article & Discussion*
 - 5. *Teens: Genetics, Peers, Parents? Worksheet*
 - 6. *Rebel without a Cause Summary and Questions*
 - ii. *Cyclists' Raid/The Wild One*
 - 1. *Read Cyclists' Raid*
 - 2. *Watch Beginning of "The Wild One"*
 - 3. *Read "The Wild One" Article*
 - 4. *Lucifer Effect You Tube start at 7:18 (or just soldier's appearance 15:58-16:37)*
 - iii. *Compare and Contrast Rebel with Cyclists' Raid/The Wild One*
- c. *Beats*
 - i. View "The Source"
 - ii. *"On the Road"*
 - 1. *On the Road Overview Article*
 - 2. *On the Road Selections*
 - 3. *Large Group Discussion*
 - iii. *Ginsberg Poetry*
 - 1. *NPR article overview*
 - 2. *America (cut?)*
 - 3. *Howl (assign to read with assignment- not in class)*
 - 4. *Howl Imitation Assignment*
- d. *The Graduate*
 - i. *Song Lyric Analysis*
 - ii. *Film Analysis*
 - iii. *Online Edmodo Discussion Forum (and test review)*
 - iv. *Watch & Discuss Parodies*
- e. **MANDATORY: Coming of Age In-Class Essay Test**
- 2. *Vietnam: Soldiers, Morality & War*
 - a. *Overview: Chronicles of War Video & Quiz*
 - b. *The Soldier's Perspective*
 - i. *"On the Rainy River" & Discussion*
 - ii. *Full Metal Jacket*
 - 1. *Goodnight Saigon*
 - 2. *Film Analysis*
 - 3. *Optional Anticipatory Set: Rifle Creed (how do others use?)*
 - 4. *Large Group Discussion*
 - iii. **MANDATORY: Vietnam Vet Interview**
 - 1. *Vietnam Primary Sources Interview Assignment Worksheet*
 - 2. *Vet Interview Anticipatory set & Video Examples*
 - iv. *"The Things They Carried" & Discussion*
 - v. *Platoon*

1. *Film Analysis*
2. *Large Group Discussion*
- vi. *MASH*
 1. *Korean War Preview*
 2. *Excerpt from: "Goodbye, Farewell, Amen" (Chapter 11: BJ Visits)*
 3. *RadioLab episode "Chimp Fights and Trolley Rides" start at 19:28-end (also a good idea to start at beginning until*
 4. *Discussion*
- vii. *Film or Documentary*
 1. *"Vietnam: Homecoming" Documentary Excerpt (beginning until...)*
 2. *Or Coming Home Film Analysis*
- viii. *Slaughterhouse V*
 1. *Introduction NPR*
 2. *Book Logs*
 3. *MANDATORY: Satire and War Essay Test (with analytical questions about SV)*
- ix. *Final Vietnam Art Project*
- x. *MANDATORY Formal Vietnam Essay*
 1. *Modern Vet Research*
 2. *Other?*

Trimester 3:

- a. *Overview: Making Sense of the 60's Video & Viewing Guide Worksheet*
- b. *Counter Culture (on the Home Front)*
 - i. *Gonzo Journalism (New Journalism Info)*
 1. *Clip from "Magic Trip" on Netflix (whole thing if possible)*
 2. *Read in class EKAT: Black Shiny FBI Shoes & Discussion*
 3. *EKAT Quiz*
 - ii. *Folk Music*
 1. *Plugging In Video & Quiz*
 2. *Folk Music Lyrics Assignment*
 3. *Folk Revival Article*
 4. *"It's Alright Ma" Analysis*
 5. *British Invasion*
 - iii. *Hair: (We need to change everything)*
 1. *Anticipatory Set*
 2. *Film Analysis & Discussion*
 - iv. *Hell's Angels (A different type of rebellion)*
 1. *Anticipatory Set:*
 - a. *Sons of Anarchy Connection/Clip*
 - b. *Time Life Slide Show (Gonzo Journalism example)*
 2. *Hell's Angel's Thompson Article & Discussion*
 - v. *MANDATORY: Counter Culture Test*
- c. *Corporate Culture (The pendulum swings back)*
 - i. *Corporations*
 1. *The Corporation Viewing Guide*
 2. *Who Manufactures Cool Assignment (How does this work? Cut?)*
 - ii. *Pop Art*

1. *Pop Art Article from "I Hear"*
2. *Andy Warhol Art Assignment*
3. *Website Examples of Classic and Modern Pop Art:*
4. *Bravo Pop Art Video (On Amazon Video on Demand)*
- iii. *Being There*
 1. *Book Blog and Notes*
 2. *Online Forum Discussion*
- iv. *Network*
 1. *Notes from a Screenwriter*
 2. *Film Analysis Packet*
 3. *Quiz*
- v. MANDATORY Formal Essay on Being There and/or Network (compare/contrast)
- d. New Counter Culture
 - i. Punk
 1. Primer and Subculture Articles (Divide class and share)
 2. Punk Video & quiz
 - ii. Hip Hop & Rap
 1. Hip Hop Questions Anticipatory Set
 2. Hip Hop Story Rap Assignment
 3. Rap Power Point (and/or Rap from "I Hear" Article)
 4. "Nuthin but a g thang" Literary Devices Analysis
 5. Welcome to Death Row Records Video
 6. Keeping It Real Article &/or How Hip Hop Lost Its Way Article (Divide and share)
- e. Review:
 - i. Millennial Soundtrack (change to also connect to 50's and 60's)
 - ii. Review Game Creation
 - iii. Bamboozled (Satire, Film Analysis, etc)- Cut? Switch?
 - iv. Optional: Frankenstory
- f. MANDATORY Cumulative Final Exam (which connects to Modern Day)