

Sustained Investigation Caution List

Over 30,000 AP portfolios were graded in one week. After viewing hundreds of portfolios, it is easy to spot recurring themes. Below is a list of very popular subjects for concentration. There is not a taboo on the following subjects, but a warning that they have been done OVER and OVER. It would be easier to find a new topic rather than find a completely new way to address these tired, overused concentrations. Be creative: think of something specific and unique. If you must use the following ideas, find an exceptional, distinctive approach to them.

PROCEED WITH CAUTION ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:
provide more focus and depth to the subject and progression of work

- * portraits of emotions
- * people who shape me
- * nature
- * memories
- * shocking viewers with bizarre
- * surrealism
- * faces
- * flowers
- * eyes
- * family and friends
- * reflective gears
- * illustration of inner thoughts
- * moments I was happy
- * self portraits
- * music
- * everyday life objects
- * goddess/myth
- * "different cultures"
- * guitars
- * reflections
- * "ideas of beauty"
- * dance

Selecting a concentration topic is of paramount importance when it comes to developing the AP Studio Art Portfolio—students must select something that offers enough engagement and interest to complete 15 works all based upon the same subjects. Here are 99 topics to get you started thinking creatively, and each of the 99 has been used to receive a passing score on the AP Exam.

For some students, deciding on a concentration can be the starting point of something spectacular—they find a topic that they are passionate about, they begin creating immediately, and they develop the concentration part of their portfolio almost effortlessly. For others, however, making a final decision brings their work to a screeching halt. They cannot find enough angles or approaches to the topic that interest them, they struggle to engage, and procrastination becomes worse than ever. For those students, this list can be used to start the preliminary process of creative thought, conceptual development, and brainstorming. A final topic doesn't need to be a forced decision, but it is never too early to begin the process of its development. This is a good place to get you started.

