AP Studio Art Thinking about Concentration

**What is a Concentration?**

A Concentration is a body of related works describing an in-depth exploration of a particular artistic concern. The Concentration should grow out of the student’s idea and demonstrate growth and discovery through a number of conceptually related works that are presented together in a viewing order.

Because the range of possible concentrations is so wide, the number of works the student creates should be dictated by the focus of the investigation. The chosen visual idea should be explored to the greatest possible extent. In most cases, students will produce more than 12 works and select from among them the works that best

represent the process of investigation. If a student has works that are not as well resolved as others, but that help show the evolution of thinking and of the work, the student should consider including them. The choice of works to submit should be made to present the concentration as clearly as possible.

Start by making a list of possible ideas. The list of possible concentration topics is infinite. The following are examples of concentrations. They are intended only to provide a sense of range and should not necessarily be considered “better” ideas.

**Possible Concentration Ideas** from the AP College Board Website:

• An exploration of patterns and designs found in nature and/or culture

• A series of works that begins with representational interpretations and evolves into abstraction

• A series of landscapes based upon personal experience of a particular place in which composition and light are

used to intensify artistic expression

• Design and execution of a children’s book

• Abstractions developed from cells and other microscopic images

• Interpretive portraiture or figure studies that emphasize dramatic composition

• A personal or family history communicated through symbols or imagery

Here are some other possibilities:

* Homelessness
* Poverty
* Teen Violence
* Bullying
* Any Social/Political Issue
* Anxiety
* The Five Senses
* The Seven Deadly Sins
* The Seven Heavenly Virtues
* The Family Portrait
* Colors I’ve Never Seen Before
* Unique Perspectives
* Id vs. Ego
* Ghosts vs. Memories
* Privacy
* The True Self is a Disturbing Character
* Family Matters
* Once
* Daily Observations
* If Writing did not exist
* The Delights of the Flesh
* Tensions all around us
* Romancing the Unknown
* Breaking down Barriers
* Objectification
* Power Relationships
* One Flight Down

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You will need to be able to answer the following questions:

**1. What is the central idea of your concentration going to be?**

**2. How will the work in your concentration demonstrate the exploration of your idea?**

**Essential Questions…**

Essential questions are the most important questions you want your students to consider throughout the big idea process.

#### **Big Idea: Community**

* Who is part of your community?
* What places are part of your community?
* What events take place in your community?

#### **Big Idea: Identity**

* What makes your identity?
* What do you want to show people about your identity?
* Would you want to hide anything about your identity?

#### **Big Idea: People and Nature**

* How do people affect nature?
* How does nature affect people?
* How have you interacted with nature?

**Big Idea: Family**

* Who is part of your family?
* What does family do for each other?
* What places do families go to?

**More Big Ideas . . .**

Identity

Desire/Loss

### People and Nature

Community

Family

Relationships

Change

Human emotion

Play/Work

Dreams

Place

Time

Aging

Heroes

Food

Humor

Memory

Religion/Spirituality

Needs/Wants

Loneliness/Alienation

Stereotypes

Social change

Power

Conflict/Peace

**\*Utilize composition techniques along with Elements & Principles for a solid layout**

**Principles of Design = Mostly used in *PHOTOGRAPHY / 2D-Design***

**Scale** overall size

**Proportion** relative size within the work

**Unity** repetition > rhythm > pattern > unity

**Balance** symmetrical or asymmetrical

**Direction** gesture, direction of gaze, etc., that moves your eye over composition

**Emphasis** dominance hierarchy created by scale, color, etc.

**Elements of Design = Mostly used for *DRAWING / PAINTING***

Line, Shape, Color, Space, Texture