

# Present: Communication and the AP Portfolio

AP 2-D Art and Design

## The AP 2-D Art and Design Portfolio

Big Idea 3 is about **presenting** your work. The AP exam is a **portfolio** 作品集—not a written test. It has **two sections**, both submitted digitally.



*both submitted as digital images · scored against the guidelines*

*The portfolio is a 15-image Sustained Investigation plus 5 Selected Works, submitted as digital images*

- The **Sustained Investigation** 持续探究 section: **15 images** showing inquiry, practice, experimentation, and revision, plus written evidence.
- The **Selected Works** 精选作品 section: **5 works** that best show your 2-D skills, with written information.
- Works may be physical or digital, but all are submitted as **digital images**. There is no timed exam —the portfolio is built across the whole course.

## Sustained Investigation: Images and Written Evidence

The Sustained Investigation is judged on the **inquiry** and the **practice, experimentation, and revision** it shows.

- Submit **15 images** —works and process documentation that show the investigation over time.
- Provide **written evidence** 书面材料: identify the **guiding questions** 引导性问题, and describe how the work shows practice, experimentation, and revision.

- Images should tell the story of the inquiry, not just show finished pieces. Detail and in-progress shots are allowed.

## Selected Works: Demonstrating Skills

The Selected Works section shows your best evidence of **2-D skills** 二维技能 and synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas.

- Submit **5 works** (physical or digital) as high-quality images.
- For each, give the **materials, processes, and ideas** used, plus the size.
- These works are judged mainly on the skilful use of the elements and principles; they need not belong to the sustained investigation.

## Writing About Your Work

Writing communicates your **inquiry, processes, and ideas** to viewers who cannot ask you questions.

- Written evidence must fit within the College Board **character limits** 字数限制—be concise and specific.
- State the guiding question(s) of the sustained investigation clearly.
- Describe **how** the work shows practice, experimentation, and revision —use evidence, not vague claims.

## Presentation and Image Quality

How work is **presented** affects how viewers interpret it —image quality is part of the grade.

- Photograph work with **even lighting, sharp focus, true colour**, and no distracting background.
- **Crop** to the work; avoid glare, shadows, and tilted edges (**keystoning** 梯形失真).
- Follow the required file formats and sizes; keep **resolution** 分辨率 high. Poor images can hide real skill.

## Understanding the Scoring Guidelines

Both sections are scored against published **scoring guidelines** 评分标准—knowing them helps you build the portfolio.

- The **Sustained Investigation** is scored on inquiry and on evidence of practice, experimentation, and revision.
- **Selected Works** are scored on 2-D skills and the synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas.
- Readers use **visual evidence in the work plus your writing** to apply the criteria. Design your work with the criteria in mind —not to a formula.

# Academic Integrity and Citing Sources

Portfolios must be your **own** work; using others' work without permission or citation is a serious violation.

- Work based on **published or photographic sources** 参考来源 you did not create must move far beyond duplication and **cite** 注明出处 the source.
- Never present another artist's work —or an AI-generated image —as your own.
- Citing influences shows **integrity** 诚信, not weakness. When in doubt, work from your own photos, observation, and imagination.

## Exam tips

- Know the two sections: the **sustained investigation** (15 images) and **selected works** (5 works).
- Use images for **process**, not only finished pieces, and name the **guiding question** in the writing.
- Write specifically and within the **character limits** —point to visible evidence.
- Photograph well: even light, true colour, avoid **keystoning**, and keep **resolution** high.
- Keep it your **own work**: transform any **sources** far beyond copying and **cite** them.