

Investigate: Inquiry and Process

AP 2-D Art and Design ■ Topic 4

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Investigate: Inquiry and Process

What we will cover

- 1 Inquiry & asking questions
- 2 Sources of ideas
- 3 Materials processes & ideas
- 4 Art in context
- 5 Evaluating work
- 6 Documentation

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Inquiry

Investigate: Inquiry and Process

↳ Inquiry

Inquiry – the engine of Big Idea 1

Making begins with **inquiry** 探究 – asking questions that guide a **sustained investigation** 持续探究 over time.

Questions **evolve**: early questions lead to new questions as the work develops.

Good questions can be **simple**: who, what, when, where, why, how, **what if**, and **why not**.

Investigate: Inquiry and Process

↳ Inquiry

Worked example – framing an inquiry question

❌ A topic, not a question

"My investigation is about the ocean."

Nothing to test – it cannot drive many works.

✅ A real question

"How can I use colour and texture to show the ocean shifting from calm to dangerous?"

The strong question names an **idea** *and* points to the **visual choices** you will test – exactly what raises a portfolio's score.

2

Sources

Where ideas come from

Your **experiences** 经历 inform **why**, **how**, and **what** you make – any event: real surroundings, imagined ideas, communication, research.

Ideas come from **observation** 观察, memory, other disciplines, and other artists' work.



experience, observation, culture, materials

Document experiences – drawings, photos, notes, sound – and they become a **resource** you can return to.

Materials, processes and ideas

Every work is built from three interacting components 材料、过程与想法:

Materials – what it is **made of**

Processes – **how** it is made

Ideas – what it is **about**

They **interact**: a material suggests a process; a process shapes an idea.

Investigating all three expands what you can make – and influences how viewers **interpret** the work.

3 Context & evaluation

Art and design in context

Context 语境 is **when**, **where**, **how**, **why** and **by whom** a work was made and viewed.

- artists work **within** or **challenge** traditions worldwide
- comparing works reveals materials, processes and ideas

Acknowledging influences shows **integrity** 诚信 – never copy without credit.



Hokusai in context: historical works teach composition

Evaluating art and design

Evaluate with **visual evidence** against specific **criteria** 标准 – as the AP scoring guidelines do.

- name materials, processes and ideas, and how they connect
- ask whether they show **synthesis** 综合

Informal critique as you work; formal critique with peers or a teacher.



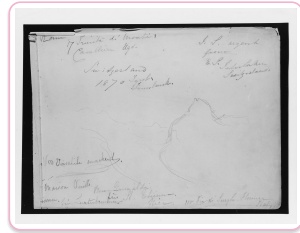
Critique names visual evidence of line, tone, composition

4 Documentation

Documentation and the process journal

Documentation 记录 becomes a **resource**: images, notes, tests, written reflection.

A **process journal** 创作日志 records questions, experiments and revisions **over time**.



Process journal: inquiry notes and experiments

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Recap

Worked example – sharpening an inquiry

A student writes “I will make art about pollution.” Turn it into a workable inquiry question.

- “Art about pollution” is a **topic**, not an inquiry – it asks nothing, so it cannot develop.
- A workable question is **open**, **personal**, and answerable **through image-making**.
- “How can layered transparency show what a river hides?”
- Test it: list **ten** works it could produce. Fewer than five ⇒ still too narrow.

The inquiry must **generate the next piece**: each work answers a little and asks a little more. Score comes from how the works **develop** the question – not from the topic.

Topic 4 – key takeaways

1 Inquiry

an open guiding question, not a topic – and it evolves

2 Sources

observation, experience, research – and cite influences

3 Synthesis

materials and processes chosen because they carry the idea

4 Journal

record experiments AND failures as evidence of inquiry

Check yourself

- 1 “My investigation is about the ocean.” Why is this weak?
- 2 Name the three interacting components of any work.
- 3 What does synthesis mean?
- 4 Is a documented failure worth keeping in the journal?

Answers 1. it is a topic, not a question – nothing to test 2. materials, processes, ideas 3. the parts work together for one effect 4. yes – it is evidence of inquiry