

Exercise walk-through

6.1

The Sustained Investigation

AP Drawing

The Sustained Investigation

Big Idea 2 is about **making**: a body of work exploring **one** question in depth over time.

- guided by **questions**, and it develops as you draw
- **15 images** plus written evidence
- shows practice, experimentation and revision – **not** unrelated pieces

Build the portfolio as a **story**: image 1 states the question, the middle images **test and turn**, the late images **answer with authority**. Scorers read the **sequence**.

The rhythm of a Sustained Investigation

the loop

make, document, reflect, revise, make again – every one or two weeks

start early

a rushed investigation is **visible at a glance**; the images betray it before the writing does

why a rhythm

“sustained” is a claim about time, and only a regular cadence leaves the trail that proves it

plan backwards

from May: photography, writing and selection all take real calendar time

The word is *sustained*, not *large*. A steady fortnightly cycle from September beats a heroic March.

Practice, experimentation and revision

- **Practice** – repeated work to build **skill**
- **Experimentation** – trying new materials to **discover**
- **Revision** – changing work after **reflection or feedback**

Submit process images **on purpose**:
journal spreads and **revision pairs** make
the three actions undeniable.



Michelangelo study: practice builds visible skill

Practice, experimentation and revision are three different things

practice

repeats a skill until it is reliable – the tenth ellipse, the fiftieth hand

experimentation

tries something whose outcome you do not know, and records what happened

revision

returns to a work and **changes it on purpose**: crop it, rework it, redraw it, or answer it with a new version

keep the failures

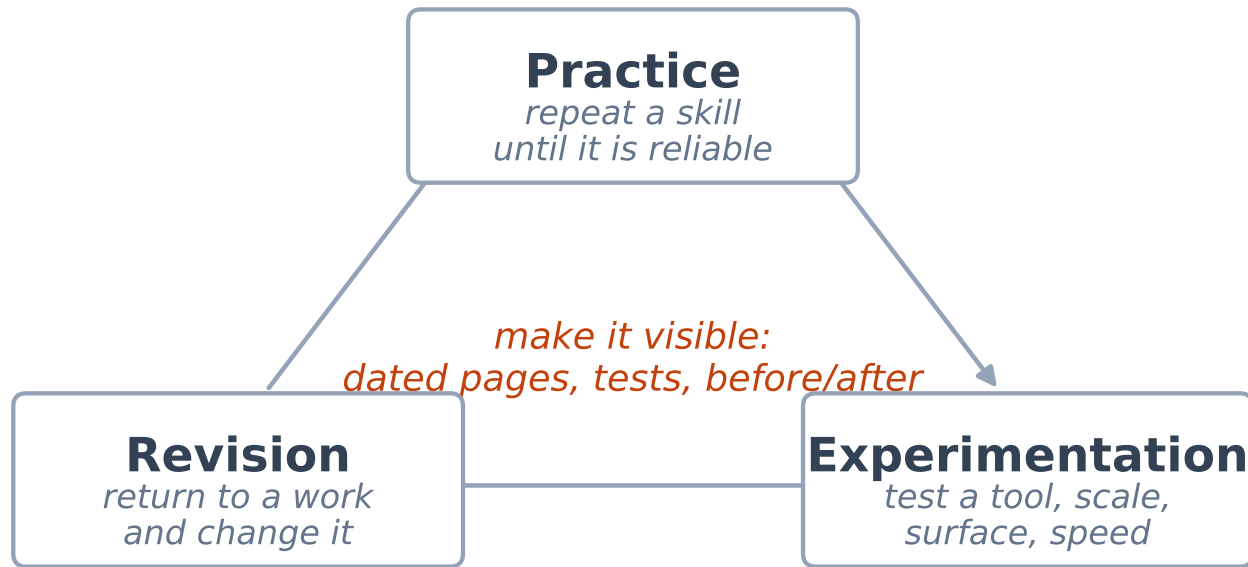
an **annotated failed experiment** is stronger evidence than an unexplained success

a revision pair

first state and revised state, with one sentence on what changed – classic AP evidence

The rubric asks for all three separately. A portfolio full of practice with no revision scores as practice, however good the drawing is.

Three engines of making



AP Drawing · Make · practice, experimentation, revision: the three engines

Three engines of making: repeat a skill, test something new, return and change

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 The Sustained Investigation is worth about what share of the score?

[1]

☐

A 10%

B 40%

C 60%

D 100%

2.2 Why do 15 unrelated 'best' drawings fail as a Sustained Investigation?

[2]

Exercises 2.1-2.2

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2.1 C

- 60%; Selected Works is the other 40%

2.2 Why do 15 unrelated 'best' drawings fail as a Sustained Investigation?

[2]

2.2

- the section scores works that relate to and develop one inquiry; unrelated works have no through-line to develop

Exercise 2.3

2.3 Describe a healthy weekly rhythm for the investigation.

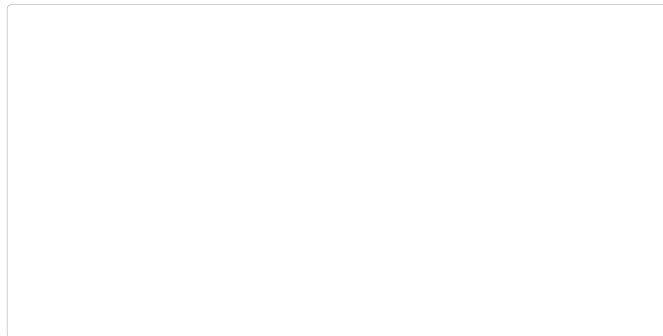
[1]

3 Studio & portfolio tasks

3.1 Plan your **Sustained Investigation** on one page.

(a) Write the inquiry, then storyboard 6-8 works that would develop it over time. [4]

(b) Mark where documentation and revision happen. [1]



3.2

() Explain in two sentences how your plan shows depth rather than breadth. [2]

Exercise 2.3

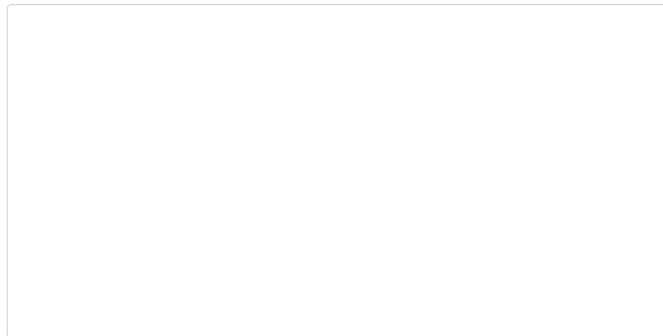
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- make, document, reflect, revise, make again

3.1

- a clear inquiry; 6-8 works that visibly develop it; a sense of progression over time;

Full solution 2.3

2.3

- make, document, reflect, revise, make again

3.1

- a clear inquiry; 6-8 works that visibly develop it; a sense of progression over time; documentation/revision points marked

3.2

- identifies one question pushed deeply; contrasts it with a scattered set