

Present: Communication and the AP Drawing Portfolio

AP Drawing

The AP Drawing Portfolio

The AP exam is a **portfolio** 作品集, not a written test — two sections submitted digitally in early May. (CED Big Idea 3)

AP Drawing portfolio — submitted digitally in early May



AP Drawing · Present · the two sections of the AP Drawing portfolio

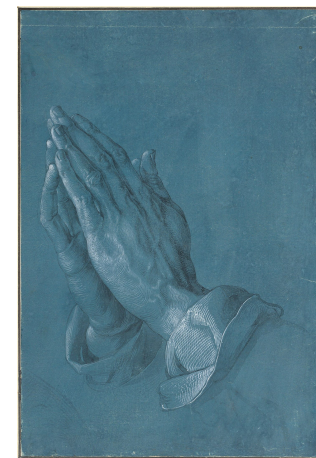
Two sections: the Sustained Investigation carries 60% of the score, the Selected Works 40%

- **Sustained Investigation:** 15 images of works and process, plus written evidence — 60% of the score.
- **Selected Works** 精选作品: 5 works demonstrating skilful synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas — 40%.
- Selected Works may come from inside or outside the investigation. Choose your strongest five, wherever they came from.
- Everything uploads through the **AP Digital Portfolio** 数字作品集平台; your teacher reviews before final submission.
- Drawing, 2-D, and 3-D Art and Design are separate portfolios — submit work made for the Drawing skill set.
- Plan backwards from May: photography, writing, and selection all take real calendar time.

Sustained Investigation: Images and Written Evidence

The SI section pairs 15 images with short **written evidence** 书面证据 — the images show, the writing states. (CED 3.A/3.B)

- The writing answers two prompts: state the inquiry, and describe how the investigation developed — about 1,200 characters in total.
- Every image carries caption fields: **materials** 材料, **processes** 过程, dimensions, and citations where needed.
- Choose images that *prove* the writing: question stated, tests shown, development visible.
- Process images — journal spreads, in-progress states, detail shots — count among the 15. Use several.
- Order the images deliberately: scorers read them as a sequence, so build a narrative arc.
- Write plainly and concretely, naming skills and components in CED vocabulary.



Sustained Investigation rewards visible inquiry: studies, process shots, and development over time

Selected Works: Demonstrating Skills

The Selected Works are your five strongest statements — each judged on written evidence, drawing skills, and synthesis. (CED 3.C)

- Pick for range *and* strength: together, the five should cover the whole drawing-skills list.
- Each work carries an **identification** 作品信息: materials, processes, ideas — about 100 characters per field, so make every word count.
- Quality beats concept here: flawless craft and a full value range are what a 5 looks like.
- Strong candidates: the observational tour de force, the chiaroscuro drama, the expressive figure, the synthesis piece.
- Details matter at scoring size. View each candidate as a small thumbnail and at full zoom before choosing.
- Ask three viewers to rank your top eight; the overlap usually finds the true five.



A finished drawing for Selected Works: craft, composition and skill must read clearly in the image

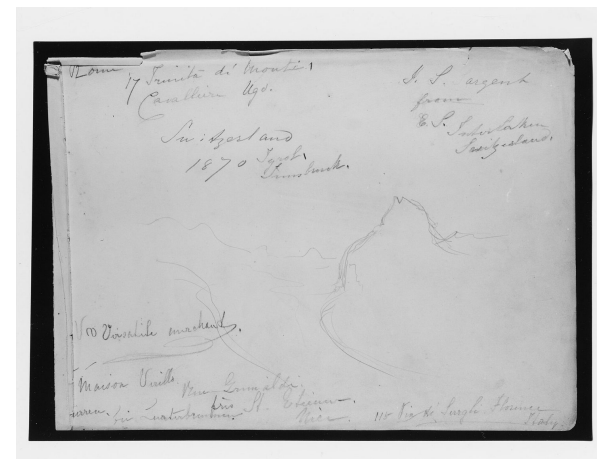
Writing About Your Work

The written evidence is short, factual, and load-bearing — it directs the scorer's attention. (CED 3.D/3.E)

- State the inquiry as a question or a clear statement in the first sentence.
- Use concrete nouns and verbs: “compressed charcoal on gessoed cardboard, lifted with erasers” beats “mixed media”.
- Connect writing to *visible* things: if you claim experimentation, the images must show it.
- Writing completely unrelated to the works caps the Selected Works score — rele-

vance is a rubric rule.

- Draft early and cut hard: character limits reward the specific and punish the vague.
- Have someone read the writing *while* viewing the images. Wherever they ask “where?”, revise.



Written evidence starts in the journal: notes next to studies become portfolio text

Presentation and Image Quality

Scorers see **photographs** 照片, not originals — photography quality *is* portfolio quality. (CED 3.F)

- Shoot in even, indirect daylight or a two-lamp setup. Avoid glare, shadows across the work, and **keystone distortion** 梯形畸变.
- Fill the frame, crop to the work's edges, and keep verticals vertical.
- Check values on screen: a washed-out photo erases the light-and-shade skill you spent weeks building.
- A **detail shot** 细节图 is allowed and powerful — a close-up of mark-making proves what a full view only suggests.
- Consistent, neutral backgrounds make a sequence read professionally.
- Photograph each work as it is finished, not all in April: fixative first, then shoot, then store flat.



A working studio: document process, process photos, and finished pieces carefully for the portfolio

Understanding the Scoring Guidelines

Both sections are scored against published **scoring guidelines** 评分标准 — knowing the rows lets you build toward them.



AP Drawing · Present · the scoring guidelines' language ladder

The rubric's language ladder: aim every piece of evidence at the top descriptors

- Sustained Investigation rows: inquiry evident; practice, experimentation, and revision; materials, processes, and ideas; drawing skills; synthesis.
- Selected Works criteria: written evidence identifies components; drawing skills; synthesis — scored 1-5 by **preponderance of evidence** 证据的总体倾向.
- The rubric's language ladder runs *rudimentary*, *moderate*, *good*, *advanced* — aim your evidence at the top descriptors.
- Score your own mock portfolio against the rubric each term; the gaps write your to-do list.
- Scores 1-5 arrive in July, and college credit policies vary — but the rubric habits are the real prize.
- Every rubric row asks for visual evidence. The recurring answer: show it, then name it.

Academic Integrity and Citing Sources

The portfolio must be your own work. Borrowed images and AI tools have strict rules.

- Working from someone else's photograph or artwork requires a **citation** 引用 in that image's materials/processes fields.
- Substantially copying another artist's work — even cited — cannot demonstrate *your* idea development.
- Draw from life and from your own reference photos wherever possible; it also simply teaches more.
- **Generative AI** 生成式人工智能 may not make your work: AP policy allows it only as a documented exploration tool, never as the artwork.
- **Plagiarism** 抄袭 cancels scores. The College Board checks, and teachers must certify originality.
- Integrity is also artistic self-interest: your own seeing is the only truly unique material you have.

Exam tips

- **Photograph like it matters, because it does** — a 5-level drawing shot with glare and keystone reads as a 3. Reshoot anything you hesitate over.
- **Fill every caption field with specifics.** “Willow charcoal, subtractive erasing, on toned Ingres paper” does scoring work; empty or vague fields waste free marks.
- **Check the relevance rule:** if your written evidence could sit under someone else's portfolio unchanged, it is too generic — tie every sentence to your images.
- **Select the five with fresh eyes:** thumbnail-size printouts on a table, three trusted viewers, overlap wins.

- **Cite every reference photo you did not take** — one missing citation risks the whole portfolio; thirty seconds of typing removes the risk.