

MAKE A MONUMENT



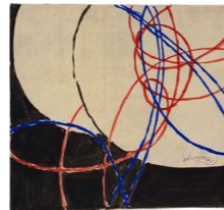
In the 1960s, Barnett Newman created *Broken Obelisk* as a monument to his times. What would a monument representing the 2000s look like? What kind of materials would you use to make it? What would it celebrate or critique about the present moment?

Draw or **write** a description of this modern-day monument.

MAKE AN ABSTRACT DRAWING

Abstract Expressionist artists used gesture and colour to evoke certain moods or feelings. How can you express emotion in an entirely abstract drawing?

Consider how you might use shape, lines, and colour to express feelings such as hope, fear, confidence, frustration, and exhilaration. What kind of emotion might a curvy line represent? What feeling does the colour yellow evoke? Pick two emotions—a positive one and a negative one—and create abstract drawings to represent them. Remember to avoid drawing any figurative elements, such as faces, hearts, or tears.



LINE DICTIONARY



Pollock, Frankenthaler, Kline, and de Kooning are all known for their use of expressive lines. Look at their paintings and write a list of adjectives to describe the different lines you see. Draw lines that correspond with the words.

CREATE A POEM OBJECT WITH A PARTNER

Dada artists created work from everything from found objects and pictures to the items pulled from their pockets. These were combined with words to create something called a “poem object.”

Make. Choose a partner and pull items from your pockets, wallets, or bags. Arrange the objects on a sheet of paper.

Write. Taking turns, write a word or make a noise that comes to mind as you assemble your creation. Your poem needn’t make sense, nor does it need to have a clear connection to the objects you chose. Record your poem on the same sheet of paper.



MAKE A COLLAGE OR PHOTOCOLLAGES

Kurt Schwitters’s *Merz Picture 32A. The Cherry Picture* can be viewed as a journal of objects encountered by the artist.

Gather. To make a collage, collect five objects, images, or fragments. To make a photocollage, collect images from magazines, newspapers, photocopies, and photographic prints. You will be altering these items, so make sure they are things you (and others) feel comfortable using in new ways.



PICTURING PEOPLE



Create a portrait of someone you know, such as a friend or family member, using any medium: painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, etc.

Reflect. As you make your portrait, consider your artistic choices: What do you want other people to know about this person? How did you choose to represent these details? Are there certain characteristics of this person that you excluded? Did you create your portrait from direct observation, from memory, or from a photograph? Why?

SHAPING AN IMAGE



Pick out a recent newspaper or magazine photograph of a famous person or politician (online or printed).

What kinds of choices did the photographer make? How is the image cropped or framed? What about the focus? From what point of view was the photograph taken? Is the caption important? Is the person portrayed in a particularly positive or negative way?

YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA!

Explore. Think about moments in your own life when you posed for a photograph and other times when you were photographed unposed. Find a few examples of each, either on Facebook or in a family album, and consider what the circumstances were.

Reflect. How are the images similar? How are they different? Summarize your thoughts in a brief (1-3 paragraph essay) below

1-MINUTE PORTRAIT



What was it like posing for an early photographic portrait? Recreate the experience by timing yourself sitting completely still for one minute. Have someone photograph you at the end of that time.

Reflect. Look at the photograph. What does your facial expression and body language convey? How did it feel to be that still for that long?

TRANSFORM AN OBJECT

Make. Select an everyday object that represents where you live right now.

Transform this object into your own artwork. Before starting, make a sketch to plan your work, using the space below.

You will need to consider the following:

- What materials will you use?
- How big will the work be?

Once you have brainstormed and sketched, then construct. Make sure to give your work a title when you finish it.



ALTER AN ADVERTISEMENT

Find an image on a billboard or in a magazine, photograph it, and import it into Photoshop or another image processing software. Manipulate the image by cropping, adding text or images, or changing the colour. See what kind of statement you can make. Give this new piece a title and show it to a friend.

CREATE A SELF-PORTRAIT

There are many different ways to represent people. Choose one of the artistic styles in this theme—the grid of a repeating image, the overlapping double image, or the fragmented and inverted image, for example—and create a self-portrait in that style.

Consider the following questions: What do you want to tell the viewer about yourself? What colors represent you? If you were to add words, what would they be?

