

Over 200 -Concentration Ideas

(A collaboration of many wonderful AP Art teachers)

- 1. Altered books based on love gone sour...**(the image of an actual human heart was in each piece)
- 2. Altered Books/ Handmade Books** with an actual image/ shape of Human Heart as Unifying theme. Personal narrative and relevant imagery focused on how love can lead to immense pain as well as the feelings of suffering, abuse, and betrayal. Other books dealt with healing and strength that resulted from heart break.
- 3. Commercial Labels and Stereotypes:** Commercialized bags were used as the canvas to a series of portraits expressing each person's personality. Bags were gessoed over or drawn over to obscure the commercial image that the "preppies", "goths" select to wear to fit in with a stereotypical group. Her concentration dealt with capturing who the subject is as a person. to personally express the drawn/ painted person's unique characteristics, the artist sometimes chose to include wording from the student himself on the portrait, or descriptions about the person.
- 4. Impermanence:** The effect of weather and time on manmade objects. Student photographed train tracks (metal with patina), railroad equipment (peeling layers of paint and graffiti), rusty cars, etc.
- 5. Mannequins and the Nude Figure:** Student painted and drew from mannequins in real life. She also drew her friends and family members in bikinis/ bathing suits, and relied on photographs of them in class. Emphasis was on "wrapping" the form with brushstrokes of color in the paintings. In her drawings, she achieved a very strong value scale with her crosshatching that also wrapped the human form.
- 6. Portraiture Emphasizing Latino Strength** - Student drew Latinos in the school and community, and incorporated symbols, words, and imagery that celebrated personal goals, achievements that the subject discussed with her.
- 7. Flight** (these were extremely technical drawings and paintings which included sinking helicopters in the jungle as well as birds on a wire and UFO's over the Southwest.
- 8. Winged Creatures-** drawn in high detail - moths, bats, bees, etc...
- 9. Longboards** - seen from 1 pt, 2 pt, 3 pt and 5 pt perspective
- 10. Color and Form in manmade play structures** (digital photography)
- 11. Landscapes from my route home from school.**
- 12. Bottles**
- 13. Groups of Friends**
- 14. Landscapes with telephone poles**
- 15. Fences-What they divide**
- 16. Abstract and realistic portraits** focusing on color saturation: analogous, complementary, contrasting, etc.
- 17. Different signs of luck:** Good & Bad, series of studies that included stepping on a crack, walking under a ladder, cracked mirror, black cats, umbrellas in the house
- 18. Mannequin thru the ages:** Painted a series of designs from art history beginning with the cave paintings thru post modernism that were all centered on the drawing wooden mannequin.
- 19. How something (like a plant or animal) changes as it grows/ages**
- 20. Reflections of my face in everyday objects**
- 21. The movement of water**
- 22. Finding beauty in an impoverished environment** (such as inner city)
- 23. People's shoes can describe one's unique personality**
- 24. Portions of the human body seen close up,** as studies of form, texture, etc.
- 25. Abandoned things** (photography)

26. Figure drawings, with an emphasis on foreshortening
27. Musical instruments and the people playing them Fantasy places
28. Imaginative surreal portraits of friends with personal meaning
29. Fortunes and fortune telling
30. Bridges line and shape
31. Carnival
32. Masking who we are
33. Cultures - *began with ethnic cultures expanded to includes tourists, homeless, etc.*
34. Feathers
35. Loneliness/estrangement
36. Microscopic views - *which become abstractions*
37. Body language
38. A white T shirt and a cap
39. Loss of father - the missing person at seminal events
40. Environmental consciousness
41. Capturing the mood of music
42. Capturing the rhythm of music
43. Fabric textures
44. An examination of what is real or mirage using faces and masks
45. Illustration of a story about a girl building a sailboat, losing it, and buying it back
46. Freedom of expression: what it looks like
47. Portraits of the everyday moods of my dog
48. Overcoming depression
49. Photos about human gesture and the expression of emotion
50. Anime-style self-portrait drawings
51. Street photography and architectural elements emphasizing composition with geometric forms
52. Photomontage to portray events of short duration
53. What I do before I get to school
54. Painted abstractions derived from microscopic cellular structures
55. Oil pastel drawings of plant material juxtaposed with manmade objects.
56. Abstractions derived from still-lives of household objects.
57. Ink drawings based on photographic portraits
58. HAIR - *focused on doing a series of portraits of friends and himself with a variety of hair styles, mullets, mohawks, scrolling, and even an Afro from the 60's and early 70's.*
59. a cross country meet
60. construction
61. road trip across the United States
62. rear view mirrors
63. members of my family through portraits of their feet
64. porches in my neighborhood
65. fashion and heavy machinery in rural Vermont
66. smaller than normal size
67. Illustrating Phobias and Fears
68. The Interaction of Man & Nature and the Effect on the Environment
69. Recycled objects
70. Piles and Stacked Objects
71. Crime Scenes/Forensics Still Life Abstracted Through Positive and Negative Space
72. Surreal Landscapes
73. Expressive Portraits in 12 different mediums
74. Surreal manipulation of hands
75. Abandonment both places and people

76. **Identity:** Hiding behind masks and other roles that we play, specifically women
77. **Gymnastic events & activities**
78. **Architectural details based on trip to Europe**
79. **paintings based on the history of any culture**
80. **Do works showing risk in our lives**
81. **Do a super realism series using your childhood toys**
82. **Draw with color in a childlike fashion based on Paul Klee**
83. **Do a series of reflection works using colored glass or colored water in glass forms like Janet Fish**
84. **journal depicting your growth as an artist**
85. **Do a series of alternative shaped canvases**
86. **Do a series of non-objective drawings in ink and on scratchboard**
87. **Experiment with collage and drawing**
88. **Select two objects, one organic and one inorganic, and do a series of drawings**
89. **Explore the relationship between science and art**
90. **Depict your own existence through the eyes of a child**
91. **Design and paint the covers for one year of any magazine**
92. **Write and illustrate a comic book**
93. **Write and illustrate in woodcut a children's book**
94. **series of works based on the lonely figures in our society (ala Edward Hopper)**
95. **series of works depicting social injustice**
96. **of works depicting the lifestyle of the homeless**
97. **of expressive drawings incorporating layered images of words**
98. **Explore the color usage and subject matter of of Wayne Thiebauld**
99. **Design a clothing line based on African masks**
100. **time through charcoal drawings**
101. **landscapes of your life**
102. **Paint your reaction to patriotism**
103. **portraits of your friends in the style of Annie Liebowitz**
104. **fabric designs inspired by the South Seas Islands**
105. **of paintings of figures, dealing with color transparencies**
106. **stages of your life as seen through the art works of others**
107. **series of figures in motion/action settings**
108. **reactions to natural disasters**
109. **color relationship works-using watercolor and still life set ups**
110. **of non-objective pieces based on a personal crisis**
111. **works reflecting environmental issues**
112. **natural landscapes, both micro and macroscopic**
113. **Paint your reaction to circumstances that affect your world**
114. **Draw a series on non-traditional surfaces**
115. **Paint your family as royalty**
116. **Do a series of cubism-based landscapes**
117. **Paint a series of elaborately dressed females with animal heads**
118. **Do a series of works based on crime**
119. **Paint in the style of the expressionists**
120. **Emotional reaction to the declining economy in the US**
121. **Create a series of works showing your reaction to war**
121. **Draw a series that deal with entrances and time continuum**
122. **Abstractions of Cars or sailboats**
123. **Do works showing risk in our lives**
124. **Combine painting and drawing in a series of narrative works**

125. Do a series of different printmaking techniques combining personal prose
126. Do a super realism series using your childhood toys
127. Draw with color in a childlike fashion based on Paul Klee
128. Do a series of reflection works using colored glass or colored water in glass forms like Janet Fish
129. Do an artist's journal depicting your growth as an artist
130. Do a series of location paintings showing the existence of man
131. Do a series of alternative shaped canvases
132. Do a series of non-objective drawings in ink and on scratchboard
133. Experiment with collage and drawing
134. Select two objects, one organic and one inorganic, and do a series of drawings
135. Explore the relationship between science and art
136. Depict your own existence through the eyes of a child
137. Restraint- what can restrain or restrict our lives
138. Design and paint the covers for one year of any magazine
139. Write and illustrate a comic book
140. Write and illustrate in woodcut a children's book
141. Do a series of works based on the lonely figures in our society (ala Hopper)
141. Do a series of works depicting social injustice
142. Do a series of works depicting the lifestyle of the homeless
143. Do a series of expressive drawings incorporating layered images of words
144. Create film animation cell designs on computer
145. Do a series of commercial posters in airbrush (ala Vargas)
146. Do a series of collages based on commercial photography
147. Explore the color usage of Wayne Thiebaud
148. Do a photographic series showing the changes of time on human nature
149. Design a clothing line based on African masks
150. Do a photographic series documenting your community
151. Show the passage of time through charcoal drawings
152. Do a photographic series showing the landscapes of your life
153. Paint your reaction to patriotism
154. Do a photographic series based on darkroom manipulations
155. Create photographic portraits of your friends in the style of Annie Liebowitz
156. Do a series of commercial products for an ad campaign
157. Do a series of fabric designs inspired by the South Seas Islands
158. Design, render, and construct costumes for a specific performance
159. Develop a corporate identity from logo to letterhead to web design
160. Do a series of paintings of figures, dealing with color transparencies
161. Show the stages of your life as seen through the art works of others
162. Do a series of figures in motion/action settings
163. Draw your reactions to natural disasters
164. Do a series of color relationship works-using watercolor and still life set ups
165. Do a series of non-objective pieces based on a personal crisis
166. Create works reflecting environmental issues
167. Do a series of natural landscapes, both micro and macroscopic
168. Do a photographic series of a human in different natural settings
169. Paint your reaction to circumstances that affect your world
170. Draw a series on non-traditional surfaces
171. Paint your family as royalty
172. Do a series of cubism-based landscapes
173. Paint a series of elaborately dressed females with animal heads

174. Do a series of works based on crime
175. Paint in the style of the expressionists
176. Create a series of works showing your reaction to war
177. Do a watercolor series showing the effect of light transparencies
178. Do a series of paintings depicting the opulence of the Victorian age
179. Draw a series that deal with entrances and time continuum
180. Modernize the fairy tales of childhood
181. Do a series of known works that switch gender roles
182. Do a series of woodcuts based on Japanese printmaking styles
183. Do a series of silkscreen prints based on the colors of Hawaii
184. Do a print series based on the metamorphic changes ala M. C. Escher

3D Design Portfolio

185. Create pottery vessels both handmade and wheel thrown
186. Build assemblages based on the works of Louise Nevelson
187. Design and construct theatrical set models
188. Build a series of wood constructions showing movement through space
189. Build kinetic sculptures based on Alexander Calder
190. Create a series of soft sculptures
191. Build found object figurative sculptures based on Marisol
192. Carve soap stone memorial/monument sculptures
193. Use foam core to create a park landscape sculpture
194. Coil built sculptural humanoid forms
195. Do a series of wheel works that are raku fired
196. Throw a set of dishes based on textures found along a rough coastline
197. Sculpt a series of naughty children
198. Design and illustrate pop-up books
199. Do a series of fiber works, such as weavings, feltings, etc...
200. Do your personal history depicted in bas relief
201. Design and construct educational toys
202. Design and build a theatrical set: actual size
203. Do a series of installations
204. Create a series of artist's books
205. Cast a sculptural series of simplified forms based on Constantin Brancusi
206. Experiment with slips and Japanese surface decorations on simplified wheel ware
207. Do a sculptural series of environments
208. Do a series of found object sculptures
209. Do a series of earth works in the style of Andrew Goldsworthy
210. Develop some special effects
211. Create masks for a movie production
212. Work with neon and terra cotta
213. Sculpt distorted human forms inspired by Fernando Botero
214. Sculpt the heroes of literature
215. Sculpt the goddesses of different primitive or indigenous religions
216. Design a car from paper to clay
217. Design an amusement park inspired by physics
218. Do a ceramic series building and firing in the technique of Maria Martinez
219. Do a series of sculptures with found objects that emphasize movement
220. Work with the figure and plaster
221. Use fiber as a sculptural form in human depictions
222. Do a series of wrappings based on the works of Christo

223. Draw a fantasy boxes giving homage to the media darlings in the style of Joseph Cornell
224. Do a series of personality furniture

Concentration Caution List

**Although some of the concentration ideas are on the previous...
this teacher was suggesting that concentrations contain more depth
and cautioned against over used themes**

In 2007, over 30,000 AP portfolios were graded in one week. After viewing hundreds of portfolios, it is easy to spot recurring themes. Below is a list of very popular subjects for concentration. There is not a taboo on the following subjects, but a warning that they have been done OVER and OVER. It would be easier to find a new topic rather than find a completely new way to address these tired, overused concentrations. Be creative: think of something specific and unique. If you must use the following ideas, find an exceptional, distinctive approach to them.

PROCEED WITH CAUTION ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:
provide more focus and depth to the subject and progression of work

- * portraits of emotions
- * people who shape me
- * nature
- * memories
- * shocking viewers with bizarre
- * surrealism
- * faces
- * flowers
- * eyes
- * family and friends
- * reflective gears
- * illustration of inner thoughts
- * moments I was happy
- * self portraits
- * music
- * everyday life objects
- * goddess/myth
- * "different cultures"
- * guitars
- * reflections
- * "ideas of beauty"
- * dance