

AP Art History Summer Assignment, 2025-2026

AP Art History is a survey course that introduces students to major artists and art historical movements over time and across cultures around the world. The College Board Exam in May takes a survey approach to this content as well. There are roughly 250 works of art and architecture that will be required knowledge for the exam. You will be required to know the following about each work:

- Identification: Title, Artist (if known), Date, Medium, Culture or Period, Location of architectural monuments
 - Form: the visual characteristics of the work
 - Function: how the work is intended to be used
 - Content: the subject of the work
 - Context: the political, social, religious, economic setting of the work, including the time period in which the work was created
- This class will cover mature subject matter. We will practice suspending personal judgment in order to analyze artworks, artistic trends, and contexts as objectively as possible.

Required Text:

Gardner's Art Through the Ages 12th Edition or higher
ISBN-0-15-505090-7. Please do not get a new one. These can be found used online for less than 20.00.

Summer Assignment:

All assignments are due on the first day that AP Art History meets for the 2025-2026 school year.

Task 1:

View the Podcast Introducing AP Art History: The Artist's Vision on Youtube.com (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOuqc8nxx1Q>).

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Please handwritten these responses.

1. Explain Tenebrism and how it applies to the first work of art presented in the video.
2. How is the painting a narrative?
3. What is the content (what is the subject)?
4. What are the differences that you observe between the first and second works presented?
5. What does the College Board mean when they ask you to completely identify a work?
6. How well should you know the specific date that a work was created?
7. What are some aspects of the artists' point of view that might inform their work? (Give specific examples about both Gentileschi and Caravaggio).

Task 2:

View the Podcast Introducing AP Art History: Context on Youtube.com
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bM_WKjTU3YY)

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Please hand write these responses.

1. Why was the subject of Judith and Holofernes such a popular topic in the late 1500s and early 1600ss?
2. What was the connection between the subject and the Protestant Reformation?
3. How was the Baroque style reflective of the popularity of the Italian opera?
4. Why was Caravaggio controversial as a Church painter?
5. Why did Renaissance Florence appear to embrace the narrative of Judith and Holofernes when it was shunned during the Middle Ages?
6. Why would Michelangelo paint his own portrait onto the severed head of Holofernes?
7. Why would the Judith narrative resonate with Protestant reformers?
8. How did Klimt situate his 'Judith' in the racial context of early 20th century Vienna?
9. How did photography change painting?

Task 3:

View the Podcast Introducing AP Art History: Formal Analysis on Youtube.com
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-4Zi_DUuXo)

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Please hand write these responses.

1. What is **function**?
2. What do diagonal lines convey?
3. What is the difference in choices of shape in the two Judith paintings (the Gentileschi painting and the geometric one)?
4. Contrast the focal points of the Gentileschi and the Caravaggio Judith's.
5. Where does the viewer "stand" in these works?
6. What do we lose and what do we gain from a "zoomed out" perspective?
7. What is modeling? How does Gentileschi use it to give the illusion of depth and space?
8. What is notable about color contrast, hue, and saturation in the Botticelli Judith? What message does this convey to the viewer?
9. What is notable about color contrast, hue, and saturation in the Goya Judith? What message does this convey to the viewer?
10. What are some examples of various media (sing. medium) used for portraying 'Judith and Holofernes'?