FREE TEACHING RESOURCE / 9–12 / 08

Culture Bearers, Visual Archives

PORTFOLIO & EXHIBITION • high school artist evidence

A coherent body of work, not a copied class product

The final artifact is one part of an artistic investigation. Build a traceable record of intention, contextual inquiry, experimentation, feedback and revision. Do not suggest that completing this lesson automatically meets an exhibition or competition requirement.

Required portfolio evidence

- An inquiry statement that identifies the artistic problem and intended audience.
- Three distinct early designs with annotations explaining decisions.
- Research notes and image-rights/permissions record.
- At least two process views and one substantial revision, dated.
- Final work documentation and a concise artist/designer statement.
- A record of one important limitation or question that remains.

Artist statement structure

The problem I investigated was…

I studied these sources or voices because…

I tested these three possibilities…

I chose this direction because…

Critique revealed… and I revised…

An ethical or contextual limitation I acknowledge is…

My next artistic investigation will test…

Presentation checklist

- Artwork is photographed or scanned without distortion.
- Media, dimensions, year and original title are listed.
- Captions credit source creators and collaborators.
- No public display without required permission.
- Alternative text or caption explains meaningful visual content.

Student-led critique

Feedback prompt: “What do the visual decisions actually make you understand? What remains an assumption? Which revision would strengthen the argument?”

Teacher note: Refer students to the current official competition guidelines for any submitted exhibition or award. Portfolio development is not a formula for winning.