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# Abstract Expressionism Quiz & Critique - Day 6

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## Kansas State Standard VA:Proficient:3.1.3

**Standard 3:** Creating artworks through choice of subjects, symbols, and ideas

**Benchmark 1:** The student identifies and discusses the ways in which symbols and styles communicate meaning in art.

**Indicator 3:** The student identifies the ways personal experiences influence development of specific art works.

## Objectives

- Students will discuss how perceptions & understandings of artworks differ from person to person, culture to culture, & time-period to time-period.
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of the historical significance of the Abstract Expressionist movement, both Action Painting and Color Field Painting, along with its connection to mood, emotion, and feelings within artworks.

## Art Production

**Input:** (10minutes)

(PowerPoint) Show students some interesting information about the artists and artworks from the Abstract Expressionist Unit. Use this time to review information with students and allow students to finish adding color to their collage.

**Independent Practice:** (15minutes)

Students will be given 15 minutes to complete the Abstract Expressionism Quiz. When finished they should retrieve their finished Abstract Expressionism pieces and begin looking over the aesthetic & analysis questions provided them.

**Demonstrate:** (2minutes)

Using the exemplar, lead students through the proper way to conduct a critique. Giving specific compliments using art terminology, as well as, constructive criticism. Have each student suggest what the painting expresses to them, the feeling they get from the painting and whether it is influenced by the lines, colors, or both.

**Guided Practice:** (15minutes)

(3minutes Per) We will critique each students' two 12x18" collage pieces, on in color, and one in black and white. Students will use their knowledge of Abstract Expressionism to discuss the craftsmanship and feeling/mood/emotion of the artworks. Every student should make a contribution to the discussion providing both a compliment and a criticism or suggestion. Students will be provided with

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Unit: Abstract Expressionism

Class: Painting

Medium: --

Durations: 45 minutes

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## Materials

Complete Abstract Expressionist Collages

Abstract Expressionism Quiz

Pencil/Pen

## Elements of Art

Line, Color

## Principles of Design

Rhythm, Movement, Unity

## Vocabulary

**Abstract Expressionism-** A post-World War II art movement in American painting, developed in New York in the 1940s. It was the first specifically American movement to achieve international influence and put New York City at the center of the western art world, a role formerly filled by Paris. The movement stretched from the 1940s to 1960s.

**Action Painting-** energetic technique dependent on broad gestures directed by the artist's sense of control interacting with chance or random occurrences.

**Automatism-** artist abandons any conscious control of the painting and allows the mind to guide the hand.

**Color Field-** Characterized primarily by large fields of flat, color spread across or stained into the canvas creating large expanses of color covering the greater part of the canvas.

the list of aesthetic & analysis questions to address during the critique.

**Closure:** (3minutes)

Exit Ticket: Have each student write on an index card one thing they enjoyed about this Abstract Expressionist Unit and one thing they did not enjoy or they wish had been done differently. Students must present their completed ticket before leaving class.

## Aesthetic Questions

Is this art?

Do you think this could be considered a portrait?

Is this more or less of a portrait because you've altered the piece?

## Art Criticism/Analysis Questions

Was it difficult emotionally to cut apart your artwork and reassemble it?

Do you think this is expressive?

Do you think the act of cutting apart & reassembling your work can be expressive?

Is it more or less expressive because it is modified from the original painting?

How does the color add or detract from the feeling of the black and white piece?

How do the two pieces compare? Which do you prefer? Why?

## Art History

For Abstract Expressionists, the authenticity or value of a work lay in its directness and immediacy of expression. A painting is meant to be a revelation of the artist's authentic identity. The gesture, the artist's "signature," is evidence of the actual process of the work's creation. It is in reference to this aspect of the work that critic Harold Rosenberg coined the term "action painting" in 1952: "At a certain moment the canvas began to appear to one American painter after another as a space in which to act --- rather than as a space in which to reproduce, re-design, analyze, or 'express' an objective, actual or imagined. What was to go on the canvas was not a picture but an event."

As opposed to the action painters, this movement places less emphasis on gesture, brushstrokes and action in favor of an overall consistency of form and process. In color field painting "color is freed from objective context and becomes the subject in itself

## Modifications/Notes

If students need more time to finish question 8 of the quiz they may come back to finish during Viking Time (they may not however change or add to any other answer of the quiz).

There is no need for any other modifications to this lesson.

## Abstract Expressionism

1. What makes Abstract Expressionism different from Abstract art?
2. Name two significant Abstract Expressionist artists.
3. What makes action painting different from painting still lifes?
4. What made Willem de Kooning different from other Abstract Expressionists?
5. What war led to the movement of Abstract Expressionism?
  - a. World War I
  - b. Vietnam War
  - c. World War II
6. What city replaced Paris as the art center of the world during the Abstract Expressionist movement?
  - a. New York City
  - b. London
  - c. Rome
7. What type of music is related with the Abstract Expressionist movement?
  - a. Classical
  - b. Reggae
  - c. Jazz
8. After having learned about the Abstract Expressionist movement and having created a piece yourself do you believe this is art? Why or why not? How has your

opinion changed after this experience?