

Investigate: Inquiry & Process

AP Drawing • Topic 5

AP Drawing

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Investigate: Inquiry & Process

What we will cover

- 1 Inquiry & asking questions
- 2 Sources of ideas
- 3 Materials processes & ideas
- 4 Drawing in context
- 5 Evaluating drawings
- 6 Documentation

1 Inquiry

Investigate: Inquiry & Process

↳ Inquiry

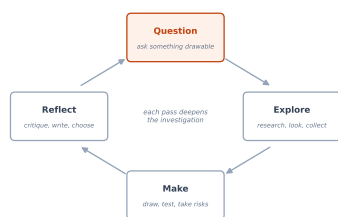
Inquiry – the engine of Big Idea 1

Inquiry 探究 is the intentional questioning that guides discovery over time.

A workable inquiry is **open, personal and visual** – answerable **through drawing**, not through a paragraph.

The **Sustained Investigation** 持续探究 is scored on how clearly the works **relate to and develop** the stated inquiry.

Investigation is a loop



Investigation is a loop: each drawing answers a little and asks a little more

Investigate: Inquiry & Process

↳ Inquiry

Worked example – testing an inquiry question

❌ *"I will draw hands."*

A subject, not a question. Nothing to discover.

✅ *"How can line weight express my grandmother's hands aging?"*

Open, personal, and answerable **in drawings**.

Test it: list ten works the question could produce. **Fewer than five means it is too narrow.** Questions may **evolve** mid-investigation – document the turn.

Where drawing ideas come from

Your **experiences** 经历 inform why, how and what you draw – observation, memory, research, culture, other artists, other subjects.

Reflecting on experience **sparks the question**; documenting it makes a **resource** you can return to.

Where drawing ideas come from, in detail



AP Drawing: Investigate: six sources that feed a drawing practice

observation, memory, research, culture

Your **experiences** 经历 inform why, how and what you draw – observation, memory, research, culture, other artists, other subjects.

Where ideas come from, and how to keep them coming

document as it happens	photos, thumbnail sketches, notes, collected objects – gathered before you need them
the ordinary wins	“the kitchen table you know beats a fantasy castle you don’t” – authority comes from knowledge, not from subject
a source wall	a folder or a wall of collected material; when momentum dips, the collection restarts it
master drawings 大师素描	study Leonardo’s studies, Dürer’s engravings, Rembrandt’s ink landscapes as working documents , not finished objects

Ideas do not arrive on demand. Collecting continuously means that on a flat week you have material to work from rather than a blank page.

Materials, processes and ideas

Every drawing is built from three interacting components 材料、过程与想法:

Materials – what it is **made of**

Processes – **how** it is made

Ideas – what it is **about**

They **interact**: a material suggests a process; a process shapes an idea.

Use the **CED’s own vocabulary** in written evidence – materials, processes, ideas, experimentation, revision. It connects your claim to the rubric **instantly**.

The CED’s three components, and how to vary them

materials 材料	the physical substances – charcoal, ink, thread, found paper
processes 过程	the actions – stippling, washing, tearing, stitching, printing
ideas 想法	the concepts the work is about
let one lead	an idea can demand a material (rust drawings about decay), or a material can spark an idea
change one at a time	the fair-test habit works in the studio: vary one component and see what it does
they are statements	charcoal on torn paper and fineliner on smooth film are different statements , not just different looks

This vocabulary comes **straight from the CED glossary**. Use the exact words in your written evidence – the scorer is reading for them.

2 Context & critique

Drawing in context

Context 语境 is **when, where, how, why** and **by whom** a drawing was made and seen.

- artists work **within** or **challenge** drawing traditions
- comparing drawings reveals materials, processes and ideas

Acknowledging influences shows **integrity** 诚信 – **never copy without credit**.



Dürer Melencolia I: historical mark systems as context

Reading a drawing in its tradition

every tradition has a language

Chinese ink line, Persian miniature, Renaissance chiaroscuro, manga screentone

ask what it was for

a study, a record, a plan, or a finished statement – the purpose explains the choices

copying is training

reproducing a hatching system **teaches decisions no video can** – and it is free

and it is evidence

a copy annotated with what you learned belongs in the journal

Historical technique is not homage. It is a set of solved problems you can borrow from, once you have understood what problem each mark was solving.

Evaluating drawings

Evaluate with **visual evidence** against specific **criteria** 标准 – the same move the scoring guidelines make.

- name materials, processes and ideas, and **how they connect**
- ask whether they show **synthesis** 综合
- **critique** 评图 can be informal or formal

Revision 修改 from critique is the development the rubric wants.



Critique names visible evidence: line, tone, composition

Critique that produces a next step

the four-step ladder

describe, analyse, interpret, judge – in that order, so opinions stay grounded in what is visible

create distance

turn the drawing upside down, view it in a mirror, or photograph it small – all three break familiarity

ask one question

“does the focal point read?” beats “is it good?” – a focused question has an actionable answer

then write it down

written reflections after critiques become **drafts of your Sustained Investigation writing**

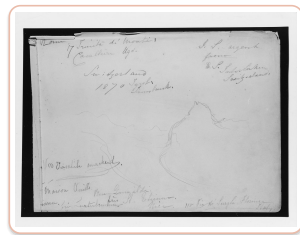
Judgement comes **last**. Most unhelpful critique is judgement arriving first, with the description skipped.

Documentation and the process journal

Documentation 记录 becomes a **resource**: images, notes, tests, written reflection.

Scorers must **SEE** the investigation – tests and **revision pairs** are evidence.

Date everything. Photograph journal spreads as you go.



Process journal: inquiry notes and experiments over time

What a process journal must actually contain

document with anything quick

phone photos, taped-in tests, dated notes, thumbnail storyboards

record the why

two lines at a decision point today **saves reconstructing your thinking in April**

photograph stages

a **before/after revision pair** is gold for the portfolio

keep tests physically

paper swatches and media trials taped into the **process journal** 创作过程日志, with outcomes noted

the distinction

a true journal, not a decorated diary, is the difference between **claiming** inquiry and **showing** it

The journal is not preparation for the portfolio. For the Sustained Investigation it is much of the evidence.

Exam tips

- **Write the inquiry as one clear sentence and pin it above your desk** – every scoring row of the Sustained Investigation asks how the work relates to it.
- **Scorers must SEE the investigation:** tests, failed starts, and revision pairs are evidence; a folder of unrelated finished drawings is not.
- **Date everything.** "Over time" is a scored idea – dated journal pages prove development without a word of explanation.
- **Use CED vocabulary in written evidence** (materials, processes, ideas, experimentation, revision) – it connects your claims to the rubric instantly.
- **Photograph journal spreads as you go**, not in April: process documentation shot in a rush looks like what it is.

3

Recap

Worked example – sharpening an inquiry

A student writes "I will draw hands." Turn it into a workable inquiry question.

- "I will draw hands" is a **subject**, not an inquiry – it asks nothing, so it cannot develop.
- A workable question is **open**, **personal**, and answerable **through drawing**.
- "How can line weight express my grandmother's hands aging?"
- Test it: list **ten** works it could produce. Fewer than five ⇒ still too narrow.

The inquiry must **generate the next drawing**: each work answers a little and asks a little more. Score comes from how the works **develop** the question – not from the subject.

Topic 5 – key takeaways

1 One sentence

write the inquiry down – every scoring row asks about it

2 Open & visual

answerable through drawing; ten works or it is too narrow

3 Show the work

tests, failed starts and revision pairs are the evidence

4 Date it

"over time" is scored – dated pages prove development

Check yourself

- 1 "I will draw hands." Why is this not an inquiry?
- 2 How do you test whether a question is broad enough?
- 3 Why date every journal page?
- 4 Is a failed start worth photographing?

Answers 1. it is a subject, not a question 2. list ten works it could produce 3. "over time" is scored 4. yes – it is evidence