

# Present & the Portfolio

AP Drawing ■ Topic 7

AP Drawing



## What we will cover

- 1 The portfolio structure
- 2 Sustained Investigation
- 3 Selected Works
- 4 Writing about your work
- 5 Presentation & image quality
- 6 The scoring guidelines
- 7 Academic integrity

1

Structure

---

# The AP Drawing portfolio

The exam **is** the **portfolio** 作品集 – there is no timed test. Two sections, submitted digitally.

**Sustained Investigation** is 60% of the score; **Selected Works** is 40%. Weight your time accordingly.

# The AP Drawing portfolio, in detail

*AP Drawing portfolio — submitted digitally in early May*

## **Sustained Investigation**

**60%**

15 images: works and process

written evidence: inquiry

and how it developed

## **Selected Works**

**40%**

5 strongest works

identification: materials,  
processes, ideas

AP Drawing · Present · the two sections of the AP Drawing portfolio

*15 images + writing (60%), 5 works (40%)*

The exam **is** the **portfolio** 作品集 – there is no timed test.

# The two sections, and the calendar behind them

## Sustained Investigation

15 images showing inquiry, practice, experimentation and revision, plus written evidence

## Selected Works

5 works showing **drawing skills**; they may come from **inside or outside** the investigation – choose your strongest five, wherever they came from

## the AP Digital Portfolio 数字作品集平台

everything uploads through it; your teacher reviews **before** final submission

## plan backwards from May

photography, writing and selection each take real calendar time – none of them is a last week

Selected Works is judged on **skill alone**, so a strong drawing that never fitted the investigation still belongs there.

## The two sections at a glance

### Sustained Investigation 持续探究 – 60%

15 images of works *and* process  
+ written evidence naming the **guiding question**  
scored on inquiry + practice, experimentation, revision

### Selected Works 精选作品 – 40%

5 works showing skilful **synthesis**  
+ materials, processes, ideas and :  
scored on drawing skills + synthesis

Images should **tell the story of the inquiry**, not just show finished pieces – detail and **in-progress** shots are allowed.



*Sketchbooks document process and revision*

# 2

## Writing & presentation

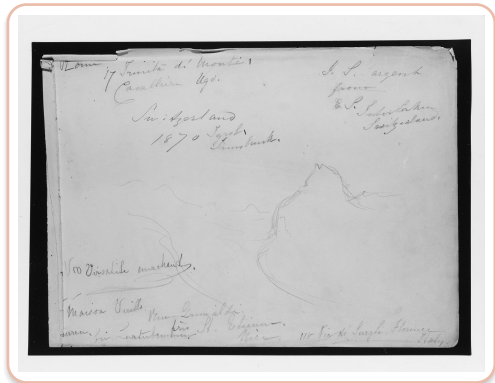
---

# Writing about your work

Writing speaks to viewers who cannot ask you questions.

- stay within character limits – concise and **specific**
- state the guiding question **clearly**
- name materials precisely in every caption field

**Relevance rule:** if the text could sit under someone else's portfolio, it is too generic.



*Written evidence starts in the journal next to studies*

# The written evidence is short, factual and load-bearing

## what it does

it **directs the scorer's attention** – it does not decorate the images (CED 3.D/3.E)

## concrete nouns and verbs

“compressed charcoal on gessoed cardboard, lifted with erasers” beats “mixed media”

## CED vocabulary

name the skills and the three components in the exam's own words

## draft early, cut hard

character limits **reward the specific and punish the vague**

Write what you *did*, not what you hoped. Every adjective you cut makes room for a material, a process, or a decision.

## Presentation and image quality

A 5-level drawing shot with glare reads as a 3. Reshoot anything you hesitate over.

Even lighting, sharp focus, true colour. Crop to the work; avoid glare and keystoneing. Keep resolution high.



*Document process and finished pieces in clean light*

# Scorers see photographs, not originals

## the consequence

**photograph** 照片 quality **is** portfolio quality (CED 3.F)

## lighting

even, indirect daylight, or a **two-lamp** setup at 45 degrees from each side

## avoid

glare, shadows falling across the work, and **keystone distortion** 梯形畸变 from an angled camera

## square on

camera parallel to the work, centred – or the rectangle photographs as a trapezium

## check values on screen

a washed-out photo **erases the light-and-shade skill** you spent weeks building

This is the cheapest place in the whole course to gain or lose marks, and the only one where an afternoon's care protects a year's work.

# 3

## Scoring & integrity

---

# The rubric ladder

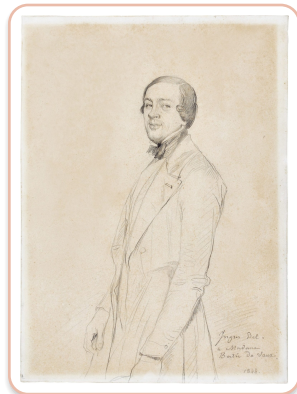
Both sections are scored against  
**published scoring**  
**guidelines** 评分标准. Readers use  
**visual evidence** *plus* **your writing**.

Aim your evidence at the **top** of the  
ladder – and design with the criteria  
in mind, **not to a formula**.

## Selecting the five

The Selected Works are judged on **drawing skills** and **synthesis** – they need **not** belong to the investigation.

**Select with fresh eyes:** thumbnail print-outs, three viewers – **overlap wins**.



*Selected Works: craft and skill must read at a glance*

# Presentation, and what the scores actually mean

## consistent backgrounds

neutral and consistent backgrounds make a sequence read professionally

## a detail shot 局部照片

a second image of one work, close in – use it where surface or mark quality matters

## crop tightly

to the work itself; a photograph of a work on a messy floor reads as carelessness

## the scale

scores 1–5 arrive in July, and college credit policies vary

## what actually matters

the rubric habits are the real prize – they outlast the number

## preponderance of evidence 证据优势

scorers judge on the balance of what the portfolio shows, not on its single best image

A portfolio is scored as a **body of evidence**. One outstanding piece cannot carry fourteen that show nothing, and the reverse is also true.

# Academic integrity

**Plagiarism** 抄袭 **cancels scores**. The College Board checks, and teachers must **certify** originality.

- work from **sources** 参考来源 you did not create must move **far beyond duplication** and **cite** 注明出处 them
- **generative AI** 生成式人工智能 may **not** make your work – policy allows it only as a **documented exploration tool**, never as the artwork

Cite every reference photo you did not take. One missing citation risks the **whole** portfolio; thirty seconds of typing removes the risk.

# Whose work it has to be

**the rule**

the portfolio must be your own work; borrowed images and AI tools have strict rules

**citation is not enough**

substantially copying another artist's work – even cited – cannot demonstrate *your* idea development

**what citation is for**

acknowledging a source you *worked from*, not licensing a copy

**draw from life**

and from your own reference photos wherever possible

**the practical gain**

it also **simply teaches more** – a photograph has already made the decisions a drawing should make

**the self-interest**

your own seeing is the only truly unique material you have

The integrity rule and the artistic argument point the same way: a copied image cannot show *your* inquiry, which is the one thing the Sustained Investigation is scored on.

## Exam tips

- **Photograph like it matters, because it does** – a 5-level drawing shot with glare and keystone reads as a 3. Reshoot anything you hesitate over.
- **Fill every caption field with specifics.** "Willow charcoal, subtractive erasing, on toned Ingres paper" does scoring work; empty or vague fields waste free marks.
- **Check the relevance rule:** if your written evidence could sit under someone else's portfolio unchanged, it is too generic – tie every sentence to your images.
- **Select the five with fresh eyes:** thumbnail-size printouts on a table, three trusted viewers, overlap wins.
- **Cite every reference photo you did not take** – one missing citation risks the whole portfolio; thirty seconds of typing removes the risk.

4

Recap

---

## Worked example – writing the evidence

**Write the identification for a Selected Work: a charcoal portrait built from torn newspaper.**

- Materials: “Compressed charcoal, torn newsprint, matte medium on cold-press paper.”
- Processes: “Collaged newsprint ground, then subtractive charcoal; erased to reveal text.”
- Ideas: “How words written about a person compete with the face itself.”

Three fields,  $\approx 100$  characters each: factual, not poetic. The image **shows**, the writing **states** – never describe what is already visible.

# The rubric's language ladder



*the same ladder scores every row: inquiry · practice/experimentation/revision · skills · synthesis*

AP Drawing · Present · the scoring guidelines' language ladder

The rubric's language ladder: aim every piece of evidence at the top descriptors

## Selected Works: Demonstrating Skills

The Selected Works are your five strongest statements – each judged on written evidence, drawing skills, and synthesis.

- Pick for range *and* strength: together, the five should cover the whole drawing-skills list.
- Each work carries an **identification** 作品信息: materials, processes, ideas – about 100 characters per field, so make every word count.
- Quality beats concept here: flawless craft and a full value range are what a 5 looks like.
- Strong candidates: the observational tour de force, the chiaroscuro drama, the expressive figure, the synthesis piece.

## Choosing images, and ordering them

### prove the writing

choose images that **show** what the text claims: question stated, tests shown, development visible

### order deliberately

scorers read the 15 as a **sequence** – build a narrative arc, not a chronological dump

### check at scoring size

view each candidate as a **small thumbnail** and at full zoom before choosing; details matter at both

### the failure mode

a work that is beautiful and proves nothing about the inquiry costs you a slot

Every one of the 15 has a job. If you cannot say in one sentence what an image is evidence of, replace it.

## Topic 7 – key takeaways

1

**60 / 40**

Sustained Investigation 15  
images; Selected Works 5

2

**Shoot it well**

a 5 shot with glare reads as a 3 –  
reshoot any doubt

3

**Be specific**

if it could sit under another  
portfolio, it is too generic

4

**Integrity**

cite every source; AI may explore,  
never make the work

## Check yourself

- 1 What percentage is the Sustained Investigation worth?
- 2 How many Selected Works, and what are they scored on?
- 3 May generative AI produce a portfolio artwork?
- 4 What is the “relevance rule” for written evidence?

**Answers** 1. 60% 2. 5 – drawing skills and synthesis 3. no – only as a documented exploration tool 4. it must not fit anyone else’s portfolio