

Nebraska K-12 Fine Arts Standards: Visual Arts Glossary

(December 6, 2013 Nebraska State Board of Education draft)

- Aesthetics** The philosophy of the nature and expression of beauty.
FA 12.2.1
- Aesthetic Theories** Specific set of criteria used to evaluate artwork (e.g., imitationism, formalism, emotionalism, expressionism, contextualism, institutionalism, instrumentalism).
FA 12.2.1.c, FA 12.2.4.c
- Artifact** A functional object of cultural or historical interest that may show fine art qualities in its form or decoration.
FA 8.2.4.c
- Artistic Style** Genres of art in history or based on distinctive characteristics (e.g., abstract, non-representational, expressionism, impressionism, romanesque). See *historical style*.
FA 12.2.3.c
- Artist statement** Usually a brief written statement by the artist describing factual information (materials used in creation) and the artist's understanding of the meaning of the work. Assists the viewer in understanding the artwork. Also may be used by persons in presenting artwork of others (curators, gallery directors).
FA 5.2.2.a
- Contextualism** Belief that art is best viewed in social, political, and cultural relationships.
FA 12.2.1.d
- Craftsmanship/Workmanship** The quality and skill of something made; the product of effort or endeavor on the part of the artist.
FA 2.2.1.e, FA 5.2.1.e, FA 8.2.1.e, FA 12.2.1.e
- Creative Process** Define a problem, use knowledge and experience, creatively brainstorm, develop possibilities, put ideas to work – in an artistic context.
FA 2.2.1, FA 5.2.1, FA 8.2.1, FA 12.2.1
- Critical Process** Ordered steps in examining art: describe, analyze, interpret, evaluate.
FA 2.2.3, FA 5.2.3, FA 8.2.3, FA 12.2.3
- Critical Thinking** Intellectual process of skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, and synthesizing information to guide behavior, in this case, the creation of artwork.
- Digital Collection** Compiling artwork in electronic form (e.g., podcast, website, blog).
FA 12.2.2.b
- Elements and Principles** Elements - the fundamental parts of art: line, value, shape, form, space, colors, texture; Principles - how elements are used: balance, contrast, movement, emphasis, pattern, proportion, unity.
FA 2.2.1.d, FA 5.2.1.d, FA 8.2.1.d, FA 12.2.1.d, FA 2.2.3.b, FA 5.2.3.b, FA 5.2.3.b, FA 8.2.3.b, FA 12.2.3.b, FA 5.2.3.d
- Expressionism** Emotional qualities of art. Belief that art transmits an emotional state to the viewer through evoking inner mental states, emotions, moods, and feelings. See *emotionalism*.
FA 12.2.1.c

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Emotionalism Expressive qualities of art. Belief that art transmits expressive qualities to the viewer through evoking inner mental states, emotions, moods, and feelings. See *expressionism*.

Emotional Qualities The most important thing about a work of art is the vivid communication of moods, feelings, and ideas to the viewer. See *emotionalism*.

Formalism Visual qualities of art. Belief that art triggers aesthetic responses solely through the effective organization of the elements of art.
FA 12.2.1.c

Genre Category of artistic composition or artwork characterized by distinctive style, form, or content. See *historical style*.
FA 12.2.1.c

Historical Style Genre of art in history or based on distinctive characteristics (e.g., abstract, non-representational, expressionism, impressionism, romanesque). See *artistic style*.

Imitationism Literal qualities of art. Belief that of art imitates life, so artwork is best viewed in a realistic presentation of subject matter. A work is successful if it looks like and reminds us of what we see in the world, evoking an artistic (aesthetic) response.
FA 12.2.1.c

Institutionalism Contextual classification of art. Belief that art exists as determined by the context in which it exists and in which it is validated by the art world, not through elements or principles of art.
FA 12.2.1.c

Instrumentalism Functional qualities of art. Belief that art is the means to an important end. Art is useful in helping us comprehend and improve experiences in life, and often furthers a moral or religious point of view.
FA 12.2.1.c

Materials Art media or consumables (e.g., paper, watercolors, crayons, clay, pencil, stone, wood). See *media*.
FA 2.2.1, FA 5.2.1, FA 2.2.1.a, FA 5.2.1.a, FA 8.2.1.a, FA 12.2.1.a

Media Materials that are used in any form of art. See *materials*.
FA 2.2.1.c, FA 5.2.3.a

Portfolio Representative collection of an artist's work.
FA 12.2.2.b

Social Media Electronic means of communication to share ideas and/or content.
FA 8.2.2.c, FA 12.2.2.c

Subject matter The main focus of the art work (e.g., the person in a portrait, natural environment in a landscape, objects in a still life).
FA 2.2.3.a, FA 5.2.3.a, FA 5.2.3.c

Themes Grouping similar ideas to assist artists in building context (e.g., power, family, patriotism, nature).
FA 5.2.1, FA 5.2.1.b, FA 8.2.3.a, FA 8.2.3.b, FA 8.2.3.c

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- Tools** Non-consumables used in the creation of artwork (e.g., scissors, rulers, brushes).
- Venue** The forum, outlet, platform, or location for experiencing artwork.
FA 2.2.2.c, FA 8.2.2.c, FA 12.2.2.c

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