**AP Homework Assignments 2011-2012**

Tips when working on homework:

1. To save time, feel free to take digital photos of each assignment, paying close attention to composition. Print thumbnails of your digital photos and paste them in your sketchbook. On most assignments, you will want to make 3 thumbnail sketches of your favorite composition—one should be in black and white and the other two should be quick color studies to try out different color combinations for your final piece. Make sure that you have 3 distinct values, and that one value dominates the other two in your thumbnail. Now you are ready to enlarge your image. Use paper that is no smaller than 9 x 12 and no larger than 18 x 24 on all assignments. If you are submitting a 2D portfolio and have chosen to do photography, make sure your final image demonstrates strong composition. Decide how you want to present the homework (B&W print, collage, Adobe Photoshop manipulation, montage, etc.). Turn in ‘finished’ work, please.
2. Fill the page—remember to make all of the space, negative and positive, count!
3. Homework assignments are due on Thursday unless your class does not meet on Thursday of a particular week; in which case it will be due on Friday.

**Week 1:**  Summer homework is due. Read and become familiar with the grading rubric from AP Board and the AP website. Bring in all of your artwork no later than Friday of this week to be photographed and archived on the Y drive in your folder.

**Week 2: 8/26** Use your digital camera to capture an interesting composition in your bathroom (or any place in your house) with dramatic light—perhaps a leaky faucet (see picture on back), or the corner of the bathroom using the reflection of a mirror in your work. Light coming through a parted blind as it sends long shadows across a porcelain tub is one idea. You get the picture—make it INTERESTING! Remember to create value thumbnails in your sketchbook before enlarging your drawing. Select any media that will enhance the final piece—be creative! Make sure you try to do something interesting with the final photo or photos. Save it in the Y Drive in your folder. Print out the best photos and final product and glue it in your sketchbook. Date the assignment.

**Week 3: 9/2** Look for interesting photo opportunities in your kitchen (inside refrigerator, under the sink, in a drawer, in the pantry, etc.). Find an unusual point of view as well. Color your final piece with whatever media is best suited for your image. Ask me about printing your photo in color on special paper on the big printer in the resource room; you can then add another media on top of the print. Consider making it an advertisement for something, or perhaps turn it into a funny card, mini book, etc.

**Week 4: 9/9** Set up an unusual arrangement of items that interest you; use a mirror or a creative light source to add drama to your photograph. Try to incorporate a leading diagonal line from one of the corners of the page to your focal point. Shade the picture in a black and white medium; however, consider selectively adding color to your focal point.

***Week 5: 9/16***  Christmas Card Design is due no later than Sept. 25th. This must be a finished card design on 8.5 x 11 paper. If desired it can be a photograph with font added over the image (with Photoshop), a collaged card design, graphic design, a drawing or a painting. Make sure it has strong graphic design elements, though. This is a real assignment, treat it as such. I have had many students use a good card design in their Breadth portfolio.

**Week 6: 9/23** select a household appliance or group of appliances (toaster, iron, large blender with metal bowl, etc) from an unusual angle (of course, items with reflective qualities offer a lot of unique opportunities). See Liz Shinn’s AP concentration; she used this assignment as the beginning of her concentration!

**Week 6: 10/7** Show me a bicycle, wagon, tricycle, big wheel, or some type of transportation with wheels in the yard, your garage, hanging from the ceiling in your garage, or whatever—make sure you zoom in and watch your negative space—make it interesting, as always. There are so many cool things you can do with these images later on in class.

**Week 7: 10/14** Draw your favorite toy/toys from childhood (if you still have some of them, if not, your favorite things)—group them casually, like you left them to go eat dinner. If they are toys, consider chunky oil pastel or watercolors to color them irresistible.

**Week 8**: **10/21** Pumpkins, gourds, trees with changing leaves or any autumn stuff—make the viewer feel fall in the air!

**Week 9: 10/28** Draw, paint or photograph something to do with Halloween or autumn—make it INTERESTING! It could become an advertisement, invitation, etc. –consider the possibilities.

**Week 10: 11/4** Shoes, shoes and more shoes.--Create a montage, collage or outstanding drawing of a grouping of cool shoes, or perhaps one very unusual shoe. Look on the AP website and go to 2D design portfolios. Look at the concentration of shoes (one of the examples). Think about something you can say about shoes.

**Week 11: 11/14** Find someone in your family watching TV. Make sure they are very comfortable and ready to sit for a while so that you can draw them for at least an hour. This should be a contour drawing, done on large paper (18 x 24 or slightly smaller) and can be done in pencil, ball point pen, or several colored pens (you might switch the color a couple of times to indicate the model has switched poses). You can add the TV into the drawing as well.

**Week 12:** **11/18** Depict cooking something yummy (the process)—perhaps a large blender with metal bowl, etc-- from an unusual angle (of course, items with reflective qualities offer a lot of unique opportunities). You might consider cookie dough and broken egg shells on the counter, etc—reflected in the metal bowl. Something that says: Holiday cooking, if you will.

**Week 13: 12/2** Commercialism. Show me what you think about that in a work of art.

**Week 14: 12/9** Depict the onset of winter. Illustrate the changing of the climate in some way that communicates the loss of warmth, or something along those lines. **OR…**Find a picture of people serving the homeless at Christmas, Thanksgiving or perhaps a picture from one of your mission trips. Focus on some part of the process that conveys a message, or in some way portrays people helping each other.

**After January 1st**, your weekly assignments are to work at least 3 hours a week, outside of class, on your concentration. You can keep a record your progress in your journal through brainstorming lists, research, photographs, drawings or finished works—I will not dictate how you use your time—just spend quality time working on your concentration! This is a very short semester and there will be a lot of demands on your time. Pace yourself to prevent stress☺