

# National Standards for Visual Arts

## Visual Arts Standard 1: Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

### Grade K-4 Achievement Standard

- Students know the differences between materials, techniques, and processes
- Students describe how different materials, techniques, and processes cause different responses
- Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories
- Students use art materials and tools in a safe and responsible manner

### Grade 5-8 Achievement Standard

- Students select media, techniques, and processes; analyze what makes them effective or not effective in communicating ideas; and reflect upon the effectiveness of their choices
- Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

## Visual Arts Standard 2: Using knowledge of structures and functions

### Grade K-4 Achievement Standard

- Students know the differences among visual characteristics and purposes of art in order to convey ideas
- Students describe how different expressive features and organizational principles cause different responses
- Students use visual structures and functions of art to communicate ideas

### Grade 5-8 Achievement Standard

- Students generalize about the effects of visual structures and functions and reflect upon these effects in their own work
- Students employ organizational structures and analyze what makes them effective or not effective in the communication of ideas
- Students select and use the qualities of structures and functions of art to improve communication of their ideas

## Visual Arts Standard 3: Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

### Grade K-4 Achievement Standard

- Students explore and understand prospective content for works of art
- Students select and use subject matter, symbols, and ideas to communicate meaning

### Grade 5-8 Achievement Standard

- Students integrate visual, spatial, and temporal concepts with content to communicate intended meaning in their artworks
- Students use subjects, themes, and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values, and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks

#### **Visual Arts Standard 4: Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures**

##### **Grade K-4 Achievement Standard**

- Students know that the visual arts have both a history and specific relationships to various cultures
- Students identify specific works of art as belonging to particular cultures, times, and places
- Students demonstrate how history, culture, and the visual arts can influence each other in making and studying works of art

##### **Grade 5-8 Achievement Standard**

- Students know and compare the characteristics of artworks in various eras and cultures
- Students describe and place a variety of art objects in historical and cultural contexts
- Students analyze, describe, and demonstrate how factors of time and place (such as climate, resources, ideas, and technology) influence visual characteristics that give meaning and value to a work of art

#### **Visual Arts Standard 5: Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others**

##### **Grade K-4 Achievement Standard**

- Students understand there are various purposes for creating works of visual art
- Students describe how people's experiences influence the development of specific artworks
- Students understand there are different responses to specific artworks

##### **Grade 5-8 Achievement Standard**

- Students compare multiple purposes for creating works of art
- Students analyze contemporary and historic meanings in specific artworks through cultural and aesthetic inquiry
- Students describe and compare a variety of individual responses to their own artworks and to artworks from various eras and cultures

#### **Visual Arts Standard 6: Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines**

##### **Grade K-4 Achievement Standard**

- Students understand and use similarities and differences between characteristics of the visual arts and other arts disciplines
- Students identify connections between the visual arts and other disciplines in the curriculum

##### **Grade 5-8 Achievement Standard**

- Students compare the characteristics of works in two or more art forms that share similar subject matter, historical periods, or cultural context
- Students describe ways in which the principles and subject matter of other disciplines taught in the school are interrelated with the visual arts

## National Standards Based Report Cards for Visual Arts

**Researching:** Gathers knowledge and information on materials and techniques to evaluate a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas through visual art

1 2 3 4

**Creating:** Applies media, techniques, and processes to construct works of art that communicate ideas, experiences and stories

1 2 3 4

**Responding:** Assesses the characteristics and merits of personal work and the work of others by recognizing the various purposes and responses to creating visual art

1 2 3 4

**Connecting:** Understands that visual art has an influence and relationship with history and cultures by making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

1 2 3 4

*National Standards Compiled from the Kennedy Center's ArtsEdge Digital Resource  
National Standards Report Cards Arranged by Katia Marzolf Borione, AACA Director of Arts & Culture  
More information can be found at <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/educators/standards.aspx>*

