

National Visual Arts Standards

- [Understanding and Applying Media, Techniques, and Processes](#)
- [Using Knowledge of Structures and Functions](#)
- [Choosing and Evaluating a Range of Subject Matter, Symbols, and Ideas](#)
- [Understanding the Visual Arts in Relation to History and Cultures](#)
- [Reflecting Upon and Assessing the Characteristics and Merits of Their Work and the Work of Others](#)
- [Making Connections Between Visual Arts and Other Disciplines](#)

Grades K-4

[NA-VA.K-4.1](#) **UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING MEDIA, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCESSES**

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

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.K-4.2](#) **USING KNOWLEDGE OF STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS**

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

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.K-4.3](#) **CHOOSING AND EVALUATING A RANGE OF SUBJECT MATTER, SYMBOLS, AND IDEAS**

Achievement Standard:

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

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.K-4.4](#) **UNDERSTANDING THE VISUAL ARTS IN RELATION TO HISTORY AND CULTURES**

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

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.K-4.5](#) **REFLECTING UPON AND ASSESSING THE CHARACTERISTICS AND MERITS OF THEIR WORK AND THE WORK OF OTHERS**

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

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.K-4.6](#) **MAKING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN VISUAL ARTS AND OTHER DISCIPLINES**

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

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

Grades 5-8

[NA-VA.5-8.1](#) **UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING MEDIA, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCESSES**

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

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.5-8.2](#) **USING KNOWLEDGE OF STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS**

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

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.5-8.3](#) **CHOOSING AND EVALUATING A RANGE OF SUBJECT MATTER, SYMBOLS, AND IDEAS**

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

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.5-8.4](#) **UNDERSTANDING THE VISUAL ARTS IN RELATION TO HISTORY AND CULTURES**

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

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.5-8.5](#) **REFLECTING UPON AND ASSESSING THE CHARACTERISTICS AND MERITS OF THEIR WORK AND THE WORK OF OTHERS**

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

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.5-8.6](#) **MAKING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN VISUAL ARTS AND OTHER DISCIPLINES**

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

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

Grades 9-12

[NA-VA.9-12.1](#) **UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING MEDIA, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCESSES**

Achievement Standard:

- Students apply media, techniques, and processes with sufficient skill, confidence, and sensitivity that their intentions are carried out in their artworks
- Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques, and processes they use

Achievement Standard, Advanced:

- Students communicate ideas regularly at a high level of effectiveness in at least one visual arts medium
- Students initiate, define, and solve challenging visual arts problems independently using intellectual skills such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.9-12.2](#) **USING KNOWLEDGE OF STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS**

Achievement Standard:

- Students demonstrate the ability to form and defend judgments about the characteristics and structures to accomplish commercial, personal, communal, or other purposes of art
- Students evaluate the effectiveness of artworks in terms of organizational structures and functions
- Students create artworks that use organizational principles and functions to solve specific visual arts problems

Achievement Standard, Advanced:

- Students demonstrate the ability to compare two or more perspectives about the use of organizational principles and functions in artwork and to defend personal evaluations of these perspectives
- Students create multiple solutions to specific visual arts problems that demonstrate competence in producing effective relationships between structural choices and artistic functions

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.9-12.3](#) **CHOOSING AND EVALUATING A RANGE OF SUBJECT MATTER, SYMBOLS, AND IDEAS**

Achievement Standard:

- Students reflect on how artworks differ visually, spatially, temporally, and functionally, and describe how these are related to history and culture
- Students apply subjects, symbols, and ideas in their artworks and use the skills gained to solve problems in daily life

Achievement Standard, Advanced:

- Students describe the origins of specific images and ideas and explain why they are of value in their artwork and in the work of others
- Students evaluate and defend the validity of sources for content and the manner in which subject matter, symbols, and images are used in the students' works and in significant works by others

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.9-12.4](#) **UNDERSTANDING THE VISUAL ARTS IN RELATION TO HISTORY AND CULTURES**

Achievement Standard:

- Students differentiate among a variety of historical and cultural contexts in terms of characteristics and purposes of works of art
- Students describe the function and explore the meaning of specific art objects within varied cultures, times, and places
- Students analyze relationships of works of art to one another in terms of history, aesthetics, and culture, justifying conclusions made in the analysis and using such conclusions to inform their own art making

Achievement Standard, Advanced:

- Students analyze and interpret artworks for relationships among form, context, purposes, and critical models, showing understanding of the work of critics, historians, aestheticians, and artists
- Students analyze common characteristics of visual arts evident across time and among cultural/ethnic groups to formulate analyses, evaluations, and interpretations of meaning

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.9-12.5](#) **REFLECTING UPON AND ASSESSING THE CHARACTERISTICS AND MERITS OF THEIR WORK AND THE WORK OF OTHERS**

Achievement Standard:

- Students identify intentions of those creating artworks, explore the implications of various purposes, and justify their analyses of purposes in particular works
- Students describe meanings of artworks by analyzing how specific works are created and how they relate to historical and cultural contexts
- Students reflect analytically on various interpretations as a means for understanding and evaluating works of visual art

Achievement Standard, Advanced:

- Students correlate responses to works of visual art with various techniques for communicating meanings, ideas, attitudes, views, and intentions

[\[SOURCE\]](#)

[NA-VA.9-12.6](#) **MAKING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN VISUAL ARTS AND OTHER DISCIPLINES**

Achievement Standard:

- Students compare the materials, technologies, media, and processes of the visual arts with those of other arts disciplines as they are used in creation and types of analysis
- Students compare characteristics of visual arts within a particular historical period or style with ideas, issues, or themes in the humanities or sciences

Achievement Standard, Advanced:

- Students synthesize the creative and analytical principles and techniques of the visual arts and selected other arts disciplines, the humanities, or the sciences

[\[SOURCE\]](#)