

Project #1

What is Art?

Please write at least two typed pages considering the following questions and ideas.

Find or create a definition for art that reflects your values and expectations. (If you use a definition from another source, please be sure to cite that source in MLA style – see the online MLA brochure for more information on how to properly cite a source using MLA guidelines.) Explain the parameters of your definition for art – what it accepts as artistic and what it cannot accept as artful. If you have never considered this question before, a good place to start may be to flip through your text book and pick out some examples of things that definitely look like art to you, as well as some examples that do not seem to be artistic.

Consider what elements of a work of art are most interesting to you? Do you respond to the idea or message behind a work, or are you drawn in by the way it looks?

Demonstrate your understanding of the artistic terminology and visual language introduced in chapters 1 – 5 by describing at least two works and using them as examples to support your definition of art. Be sure to include the artist's name, the title of the work and the date it was created in your description. For example, you may want to discuss a particular media that exemplifies what art is to you, or you may want to consider the formal elements of a work that need to be present for you to consider the object/ piece a work of art. Using appropriate visual language, explain why or why not the particular examples you have chosen are or are not works of art to you.

Remember to be as honest as you possibly can be. There are no “right” or “wrong” answers. You will be graded on the time you have spent considering the topic and whether you have adequately completed the assignment.



Vincent Van Gogh. **The Starry Night**. 1889.