

Exploring Three Research Paths in Artmaking



Starting with an Artist



Starting with a Concept



Starting with a material



Starting with an Artist

Investigate:

Research the artist's style, themes, and cultural context. Situate their work historically and conceptually.

Generate:

Respond by making sketches, inspired experiments, or reinterpretations in your own context.

Refine:

Evaluate how your response connects to your personal ideas. Modify techniques or concepts to make the work your own.

Resolve:

Finalize your artwork, balancing inspiration from the artist with your own cultural and personal voice.



Starting with a material

Investigate:

Study a material (ink, watercolor, clay, fabric). What are its properties? What have other artists done with it?

Generate:

Sketch, test, and experiment with the material. Push it to its limits — mix it, layer it, break it.

Refine:

Evaluate what worked. Which experiments surprised you? Which techniques created strong effects? Connect these with artists who use the same medium.

Resolve:

Curate and combine the most successful outcomes into a resolved artwork.



Starting with a concept (idea)

Investigate:

Ask what this concept means. Research the symbolism of ideas and references that you would like to use in your work.

Generate:

Create sketches and experiments inspired by your chosen concept. Explore different visual representations of the idea.

Refine:

Compare your results with what your selected artist did. What is working in your own practice? Which experiments carry the strongest meaning?

Resolve:

Curate your best explorations into a final piece that balances your personal interpretation with the conceptual foundation.

Bonus: Final Thoughts

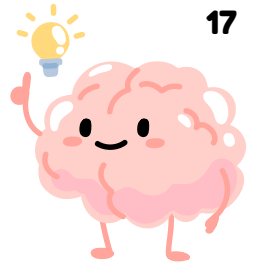


Title of your artwork:

One sentence that captures its message:

What did you learn about yourself through this piece?

Creative Strategies – Student Worksheet



Creative Strategy	Art-Making Form	Context Idea