

## Art History: Fostering Critical Thinking through Formative Assessment

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### DESCRIPTION/ABSTRACT

Presented with a nine-pound, one-thousand-page book full of images, names, and dates, art history can be daunting. This session will demonstrate how participants can encourage critical thinking, effectively gauge student learning, and increase student comprehension and retention via formative assessment. Participants will learn the value of formative assessments as pedagogical tools and how these methods can better prepare students for the AP. Participants will also learn how formative assessment can foster students' active participation in the learning process emphasizing critical thinking over rote memorization. Participants will model interactive formative assessments during the session which they can introduce in their classroom.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Participants will study the effectiveness of formative assessment in the AP Art History curriculum, learning methods to encourage both critical thinking and active student participation in the learning process and how these methods can better prepare students for the AP exam. Participants will explore the value of formative assessment as pedagogical tools to gauge student learning, gaining the ability to adjust instruction to ensure that all curricular/learning goals are achieved thereby increasing student comprehension and retention. Participants will also model interactive formative assessments during the session which they can introduce in their own classroom.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Participants will learn the value of formative assessments as pedagogical tools and how these methods can better prepare students for the AP exam. Participants will also learn ways in which formative assessment can foster students' active participation in the learning process resulting in critical thinking over rote memorization.

### SESSION PROCESS

The session will present a survey of the best pedagogical practices to encourage critical thinking while demonstrating the value of formative assessment. The session will be presented via PowerPoint and organized into 5 segments: (1) introduction and the importance of critical thinking in AP Art History (10 minutes), (2) the value of formative assessment (5 minutes), (3) interactive demonstration of formative assessment exemplars (30 minutes), (4) summary and effectiveness of formative assessment on the AP exam (10 minutes), and (5) participant question-and-answer session and collaborative discussion (15 minutes).