**Art within our world**

AP Language & Composition

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**Rough Draft**

“What is an artist but the servant of the people?” These were Pope Julius II’s words when addressing Michelangelo in the film, The Agony and the Ecstasy. Really, what role does an artist play but serving people’s demand for pleasure and entertainment? Well, art may exist as a major part of our society today because of our modern population’s demand for visual, kinetic, and auditory stimuli; but art serves many other functions as well. Functions like recording a scene in nature, capturing someone’s portrait, simple expressions of creativity, to even describing a murder suspect. The artists who are behind these works of art are just people, who may or may not be good at their craft, but meet humanity’s demand.

When most people think of “Art” they think of a painter, a canvas, paint brushes, and popular works of art, i.e. the Mona Lisa. This generic view of art is dramatically understated. Art could be anything, or any piece of work. Could not someone argue that a sunset is a work of art? No human participated in the creation of the sunset, or nature in that manner, but nature in its entirety is truly artistic. The constant cycle of night and day, as Ralph Waldo Emerson said, is truly captivating to someone who inquires.

When exploring the uncharted western American lands, Louis and Clark drew pictures of plants and species they were new to seeing. The pictures in their journals were art in their own way. They introduced new things in the name of science to people back east who never saw anything like their pictures. Recording events and things is a very useful form of art. Cavemen drew pictures in caves of animals and things they saw, perhaps simply to display perhaps interesting or bizarre things they had encountered.

A Fine Arts credit is required for high schoolers to graduate. This somehow expresses the importance of art within our world. The fine arts themselves are a very broad category. Films, choir, and drawing all have a very big impact on our society. We must be wasting 2 hours of our time in movies for some profound reason. We must admire works of art for some reason. We must fill our brains with lyrics and tunes to some purpose…