

# Purpose Project - Art Section

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## 1 Instructions

Pick a story you learned about yesterday and dig a little deeper into what this story really means. Who told the story? Why did they tell it? What is their background? What is their purpose? What is their message?

Pick a medium: digital media, painting, sculpture, chalk, performance, video, etc. and create a piece of art inspired by a story you heard yesterday. This should be about a 2-hour focus.

## 2 Anecdotes

Three of my favorite anecdotes is the encounter between Diogenes the Skeptic and Alexander, Aristotle's remark on his decision to bear exile, and the death of God. Now since I don't want to do research for this, I'll just recollect them from memory.

### 2.0.1 Note

I've probably butchered all three of them. Read them for yourself if you wish to take a closer look of these little stories.

### 2.1 Alexander and Diogenes

When Alexander came to see Diogenes he asked him if there was anything he could do for him. His response was to move out of the sun. This left such an impression on Alexander that he remarked: "Truly, if I wasn't Alexander I'd want to be Diogenes."

### **2.1.1 Analysis**

On the story of Alexander and Diogenes it only makes sense if you interpret it in a historical lens, and you know who these two men are. Alexander is, which most probably knew, Alexander the great. He was a mighty warlord who conquered vast sums of territory in both Europe and Asia. Diogenes is a philosopher/social critic. He rejected a conventional lifestyle, and refereed to himself as a cosmopolitan instead of a citizen. When Diogenes tells Alexander to take a few steps away he is implying that what he desires can't be given to him from a man who has so much material good. Almost as if making a statement that my interests lay elsewhere. It is both a rejection of the practical/political life, as well as of material things.

## **2.2 Aristotle**

One day charges were brought against Aristotle, the philosopher, on the grounds of impiety. Since back then you had the choice to either face the charges or exile, he opted for the latter. On his departure he said: "I won't allow them to sin twice against philosophy.

### **2.2.1 Analysis**

The second's message is more comedical. Socrates was given the hemlock, which was the Athenians first sin. If he were stuck down, it'd be another sin against philosophy.

## **2.3 Death of God**

One day a mad man came down to the marketplace and said to the crowd, "Behold, here stand I to bring about a braver sort of man." The crowd grew angry and resentful because this man had said some things that they considered blasphemous. The mad man lamented, "I have come to early!" He walked away and came across a church: "What are these buildings but the tombs of God. We have killed him."

### 2.3.1 Analysis

This last one is from *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Nietzsche's death of God parable. I have the haziest memory of this parable. Nietzsche lived in the time where Germany was at the height of her power. He experienced the development of the modern nation state. Justly, his prophetic words about the Germans and Jews made him infamous. History was to prove him right. This parable gets readers to question what the nature of an increasingly secular world is going to look like. One of his main goals in his books is to ask the question: how can one live a meaningful life if there is no God? What is presented as an alternative is the overman; the brave, contemplative, practical, artistic man.

## 3 Three Short Poems

This is where I'm supposed to create something that people will see as artistic, unfortunately I'm no poet or teller of stories. I appreciate poems and stories, but when wish to create I don't want to hide my message behind some metaphor or irony. Also, I have no practice. To do something of that sort would require me to learn the basis of what I'd choose to do, which I have no time for.

You know on second thought I'll try some poems, but I'll throw out all the metrical, grammatical, and stylish rules which most forms of verse are subject to. If they are terrible, blame doesn't rest entirely on me.

### 3.1 Bliss

There lay I in the morning,  
drowsy, warm, blissful;  
forgetful and sweetfully ignorant,  
of those responsibilities which this  
industrious society  
likes to lay on me.

For a time forgetful,  
I run among the valleys and the streams.  
Thinking of a time when mother nature,  
didn't have to gasp for air between the concrete.

A time when rules were less,  
life more in my own hands,  
when the fruits of modern science,  
didn't bombard me with noise so shamelessly,  
it'd make an old man blush.

What are the three most proud beasts which creepeth  
this earth?  
They are peacock, horse, and youth.  
Those fair, fiery souls.  
Have they yet to open their eyes?

Alas!

### 3.2 Tired

There I soberly sit,  
just thinking.  
How nice rest would be!  
If I only had the chance,  
sitting there for hours,  
would be a pleasant luxury.

Behold, a man appears,  
sporting a professional navy suit;  
he calls:  
"Have you not heard the news, my friend?  
There is no rest for the wicked."

### **3.3 Befuddled**

It would seem to me,  
that if only people would meditate on their convictions,  
stupidity and strife would decrease.

Our society makes it so hard,  
for those popular ones that preach enlightenment,  
are the most hopelessly enslaved.

Oh, our divine mover,  
what a subtle being!

### **3.3.1 Punctuation**

YOU'RE PUNCTUATION IS ALL OFF. Yeah, yeah, I know.