



FOCUS: Identifying correct paraphrases of information from a longer passage.

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DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and then answer the question that follows

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Abstract Expressionism



Reading > Lesson 5: Sentence Restatement Questions > Exercise 5.2

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and then answer the question that follows

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The center of the Western art world shifted in the 1940s from Paris to New York. This was due in large part to the devastation World War II had inflicted across Europe, coupled with the influx of emigre artists escaping to the United States. American artists picked up the European avant-garde's energy. Interest in the avant-garde influenced much of American art of the 1940s through 1970s.

Abstract Expressionism, the first major American avant-garde movement, emerged in New York (and hence is often referred to as the New York School) in the 1940s. As the name suggests, the artists associated with Abstract Expressionism produced paintings that are, for the most part, abstract but express the artist's state of mind. These artists also intended to strike emotional chords in the viewer.

The Abstract Expressionists tried to broaden their artistic processes to express what psychiatrist Carl Jung called the collective unconscious. To do so, many used their creative minds as open channels for unconscious forces to make themselves visible. These artists turned inward to create, and the resulting works convey a rough spontaneity and obvious energy.

The Abstract Expressionists meant the viewer to grasp the content of their art intuitively, in a state free from structured thinking. The artist Mark Rothko eloquently wrote: "We assert man's absolute emotions. We don't need props or legends. We create images whose realities are self-evident. Free ourselves from memory, association, nostalgia, legend, myth. Instead of making cathedrals out of Christ, man or life, we make it out of ourselves, out of our own feelings. The image we produce is understood by anyone who looks at it without nostalgic glasses of history."

The Abstract Expressionist movement developed along two lines--gestural abstraction and chromatic abstraction. The gestural abstractionists relied on the expressiveness of energetically applied paint, whereas the chromatic abstractionists focused on color's emotional significance.



Review

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1 Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the **highlighted** sentence in the passage? *Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.*

- ☐ Both chromatic and gestural abstractionists used color to produce art that showed the complexity of personal feelings.
- ☐ Gestural abstractionists preferred color, but chromatic abstractionists abandoned color to focus on stark emotions.
- ☐ Although color was at the center of chromatic abstraction, the action of painting was fundamental to gestural abstraction.
- ☐ Chromatic abstractionists applied paint expressively, mirroring the technique of gestural abstractionists.



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