

# Themes in Western Literature & Art

## SUMMER CHALLENGE

In Themes in Western Literature and Art (TWLA), we'll be exploring the ways in which literature and art connect. We'll also be trying to understand some of life's big, un-Googleable questions by exploring a variety of literature and art.

This class does **not** require any prior knowledge of art or art history, nor does it require any artistic "talent." However, I do think it's helpful to enter our class with some personal experience or interaction with art; hence, your Summer Challenge.

### Assignment Details:

The TWLA Summer Challenge requires you to collect experiences in order to earn points. These points will lead to a grade. You must earn at least 100 points to qualify for a grade.

- To get credit for your experiences, you will need to produce "artifacts" as proof of your experience.
  - Artifacts typically require the inclusion of photographic evidence of your experience (i.e., you in front of a painting at the Art Institute, a photo of your ticket, a photo of the art you created, a picture with your group at a viewing of a film about art, etc.)
  - Artifacts must demonstrate what you learned as a result of your experience, with special attention to personal growth and engaging in new experiences.
  - A majority of your artifacts must demonstrate *synthesis* (that is, you need to make connections between your experiences— how did what you saw at the Intuit Gallery of Outsider Art connect to the art you created? How did both of these connect to the book you read?)
  - At the top of each artifact, you must list the event or experience, the number of points earned, and the date on which you completed the event or experience.
- During the first week of class, you will turn in your artifacts. Please place all artifacts in some manageable, organized, easy to read format (scrapbook, journal, notebook, website, blog, Google slide deck, etc.)

### Feeling all **EXTRA**?

- There will be a raffle for prizes for people who exceed 100 points and a grand prize for the student with the most points.
- Really like one of the events? You can do it twice for points.
- Add 10 extra points to any of the events by making it a group event with 3-5 other TWLA students. Document your experience as a group (and provide proof) to earn the extra points.

Don't like any of the events I've suggested? Have an idea of your own? Send your ideas (and suggested point values) to [jensmith@naperville203.org](mailto:jensmith@naperville203.org).

## Example Events & Experiences:

Points	Description
20	Visit (in person) an art museum or gallery. Reflect on and respond to your experience. Google “art museums near Chicago” or “art galleries near me” for a complete listing, and check the museum/gallery website for information about hours, ticket prices, and rules (most art museums and galleries won’t allow you to bring in large bags or pens).
5	Visit (in person) a public work of art, like <i>Crown Fountain</i> , <i>Agora</i> , or <i>Reflections on Scotts Mill</i> . Reflect on and respond to your experience.
10	Make art using a medium that you’ve worked with before. (I’m more concerned about your experience with making art, rather than with the outcome.)
15	Make art using a new medium that you’ve never worked with before. (I’m more concerned about your experience with making art, rather than with the outcome.)
15	Listen to at least three episodes of a podcast about art. Reflect on and respond to what you learned. Examples include <i>The Lonely Palette</i> , <i>ArtCurious with Jennifer Dasal</i> , and <i>A Piece of Work with Abbi Jacobson</i> .
10	Watch a film about art. Reflect on and respond to what you learned. Examples include <i>Frida</i> , <i>Pollock</i> , and about 1,000 art documentaries available on Netflix.
10	Read at least five entries on an art blog. Reflect on and respond to what you learned. Examples include <i>Hyperallergic</i> , <i>The Gray Market</i> , and <i>BOOOOOOOM!</i>
40	Read a book (fiction or nonfiction) about art. Reflect on and respond to what you learned. Examples include <i>My Name is Asher Lev</i> (fiction) and <i>Seven Days in the Art World</i> (nonfiction). You could also choose to read a biography or autobiography about an artist or an author.
30	Engage in a time period study (such as the Renaissance, or the Baroque), focusing on the art and/or literature of that time period. Read/view at least four sources (credible websites, articles, Khan Academy or Crash Course videos, etc.) Then, write a reflection in which you use what you’ve learned to come to some conclusion about the art and/or literature of this time period.
30	Engage in an author or artist study, focusing on their biography and their <i>oeuvre</i> (their collected works). Read/view at least four sources (credible websites, articles, Khan Academy or Crash Course videos, etc.) Then, write a reflection in which you use what you’ve learned to come to some conclusion about the author/artist’s life and work.
30	Engage in a country study, focusing on the art and/or literature of that country. Read/view at least four sources (credible websites, articles, Khan Academy or Crash Course videos, etc.) Then, write a reflection in which you use what you’ve learned to come to some conclusion about the art and/or literature of this time period.
30	Engage in an art movement study (such as cubism, realism, naturalism, or abstract expressionism), focusing on the characteristics and major works of the movement. Read/view at least four sources (credible websites, articles, Khan Academy or Crash Course videos, etc.) Then, write a reflection in which you use what you’ve learned to come to some conclusion about this art movement.

