

The arts are unique languages and symbol systems for communicating ideas, feelings, and different ways of knowing about oneself and the world. The arts engage the whole individual in the acts of creating, performing, and responding involving the intellectual, the intuitive, the emotional, and the physical being. The arts provide a record of civilization through diverse cultural artifacts that reflect aspects of human thought, action, and experience, and assist students in making connections across subject matter. Importantly, the arts develop essential workplace qualities of teamwork, collaboration, flexibility, and appreciation and respect for others' ideas and personal expressions. The richness of each of the arts disciplines and its contribution to thinking and learning demand that every student have access to the knowledge, skills, and understandings of arts education.

*NAEP Visual Arts Assessment and
Exercise Specifications*