

MAUS and the Impact of Art

Maus I: My Father Bleeds History, first published in 1980, changed the world of comic books forever. It became the first graphic novel to win a Pulitzer Prize in 1992. It also showed a story of the Holocaust as people had never seen it before.

Art, like Spiegelman's graphic novel, has the power to change the world. You will be looking at another example of how art can impact the world.

Assignment: Choose an artist from the list below, and write a five-paragraph essay explaining the impact of their art, using at least one example of their artwork.

List of artists:

- Banksy
- Kendrick Lamar
- Shephard Fairey
- Rupi Kaur
- Woody Guthrie
- Dr. Seuss
- *You may choose an artist who is not on the list if you can convince me why they are appropriate for this essay.*

Research:

You'll research the artist you choose, and answer each of these research questions on a Google Research Doc:

1. **Artist** - Who created this message? What do we know about the artist? Personal life, family history, personal reasons for making this art?
2. **Message** - What kind of messages are found in this artist's work? Find one example that has one (or more) of these messages and include it on this page.
3. **Purpose** - Why is this message being sent?
4. **Artistic Techniques** - What kind of artwork is it? What are the characteristics of the art? What creative techniques are used to draw our attention or convey the messages?
5. **Audience** - Who is the audience of this artist's work? How do different people perceive this art differently? How might other people understand this message differently than me?
6. **Impact** - What impact does this artist have on the world?

Outline:

Then, you'll write an outline for your essay, which you'll bring to class and use for peer editing.

Final Draft:

Finally, you'll write a five-paragraph essay that explains your artist's life, art, and impact on the world.

Research Notes due on: 5/15 or 5/16 (10 points)

Outline due on: ~~5/17 or 5/18~~ 5/21 (10 points)

Final Draft due by: 5/24 or 5/25 (40 points)