



## Visual Arts Summer Work

Drawing is a fundamental skill that allows you to develop in all areas of visual art.

To prepare for Visual Art students should explore the use of drawing for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales. A great way to do this is to create a **Visual Journal/Every day sketchbook**. To support your preparation for the course, I would like you to create **a visual journal of your day to day life that reflects your IDENTITY**.



Some tips to help you get started creating your Visual Journal:

**Tip #1: Get yourself a sketchbook.**

I would suggest no bigger than A4. Ideally your journal will be small enough for you to keep on your person. Please try to have a book that contains quality drawing or cartridge paper.

**Tip #2: Don't be precious about your work...**

Remember your journal does not have to be perfect... Development is about selecting ideas, visual elements, compositions and techniques and not being afraid to explore them.

It is important that you don't become too attached to your first idea or caught up in trying to make each page perfect.



Don't worry if the work you produce seems unresolved many students worry about their drawing ability **but they shouldn't!** It is an important part of the creative process to try out new things and to make creative decisions based on what works and **what doesn't.**

**Tip #3: Find things you love to put in there!**

It's all **about you...** Have fun. Inspiration can come from anything and anywhere even just a walk down the street. Take snapshots with your phone of things that interest you that you can draw from later.

**Tip #4: Jot down ideas when they come to mind.**

Don't wait to do this, ideas can be fleeting and easily forgotten! Keep your journal with you at all times!

**Tip #5: Use mixed media.**

You don't just have to draw. You could sketch in paint, you could use collage or use whatever materials you have to hand. You could create a pouch at the front of the book in which to place found things like pressed leaves or stamps. Experiment!



**Tip #6: Remember - anything goes...**

- Use quotes and other inspirational texts. Cut them out, or rewrite them, maybe using some coloured pencils to add extra interest to the pages.
- Paste in theatre tickets and other travel memorabilia, they may help bring back the feeling trip or a memory and inspire a sketch or piece of work.
- Add photos, maps, pressed flowers/leaves, or anything else that interests you.

Remember it's about your daily life so illustrate it... for example, If you bake a cake why not draw a picture of you making it and annotate it with the recipe instructions?!

Hopefully now you're getting the idea of how to create your visual journal.

Anything goes, as long as it excites *you*, it can go into your Visual Journal. As time goes by, it will become a rich illustration of this time in your life. Bring your Visual Journal with you for your first lesson of IB Visual Arts, we will be using them as we begin our new project.

Visual Art is a demanding two-year course of study in which students create a body of work that demonstrates a solid understanding of who they are as an artist.

I am looking forward to meeting you in September!