

**Subject area/course:** History/U.S. History

**Grade level/band:** 10-11

**Task source:** Virtual Learning Academy Charter School

## **Intellectual and Artistic Expression: Set Production Designer**

### **STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **A. Task context:**

You are a set production designer, designing a set for a movie scene that takes place in the United States. You will select a specific time period and place for your movie set and create sketches and/or build conceptual models of your set. In order to depict the ideas and values of the time period, you will research cultural and artistic trends. Your sketches and/ or conceptual models will be put together to create presentation for the director and producer of the movie.

#### **B. Final product:**

##### **Step 1**

Begin your research by gaining understanding the terms culture, artistic, art and trend. Next develop a list identifying what type of things would be considered artistic and cultural trends.

- Definition of Culture: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/culture>
- What is culture? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57KW6RO8Rcs>
- Definition of Artistic: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/artistic?s=t>
- Definition of Art: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/art?s=t>
- Definition of Trend: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/trend?s=t>

##### **Step 2**

Select on a time period from 1865 to the present to explore closer in order to identify the cultural and artistic trends that reflect and/or influenced the ideas and values of that time period. The 1920's or the Great Depression are examples of eras in which there were rich cultural and artistic trends, but you are encouraged to choose an era that interests you.

As you are research your time period take notes, make sketches and/or create a journal of ideas that can be used as support for your production design. You should also include how cultural and artistic trends reflect and/or influence ideas and values during this time period.

You will refer back to your notes during the process of designing your movie set. You and your instructor will discuss these as well as where your set will take place during the progress review meeting.

These sites can help you get started:

- Major Eras: US History:



<http://wits.williamsvillek12.org/intranet/0001/horton/Major%20Eras.htm>

- Culture Trends and Movements Throughout American History:  
<http://timerime.com/en/timeline/148129/Culture+Trends+and+Movements+Througout+American+History/>
- Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History:  
<http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/ht/?period=06&region=na>

### **Step 3**

Keep track of the sources of your information and create a MLA works cited list.

Research Notes and Works Cited:

- Are clear, neat, and well-organized
- Contain an outline of what you've learned
- List important vocabulary with definitions
- Include artistic and cultural trends of a specific time period in US history
- Demonstrates understanding of how cultural and artistic trends reflect and/or influence ideas and values during the time period being researched.
- Contain a list of questions about what you've learned
- Are typed using a word processing program or handwritten, scanned, and saved as a PDF file
- Include a separate works cited page, using MLA formatting ([Click here to review MLA formatting](#))

### **Step 4**

Schedule your progress review meeting with your instructor using your instructor's scheduling calendar.

Progress Review Meeting:

- Be prepared to discuss your research findings and some of the key themes that you discovered. This will include:
  - Cultural and artistic themes you identified and how these reflect the ideas and values of the time period.
  - Brainstorm ideas for your set design such as where it will take place and items you will include in the design.

### **Step 5**

Research what a production designer does and how they present their designs to the director of a movie. Here are some links to get you started but you should explore additional resources:

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Production\\_designer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Production_designer)
- [http://www.oscars.org/video/watch/ev\\_prodesign\\_05a\\_voting.html](http://www.oscars.org/video/watch/ev_prodesign_05a_voting.html)
- [http://www.oscars.org/video/watch/ev\\_prodesign\\_06a\\_creber.html](http://www.oscars.org/video/watch/ev_prodesign_06a_creber.html)



- <http://www.media-match.com/usa/blog/index.php/career-profile/production-designer/>

### **Step 6**

Take research notes on what a production designer does and how they present their ideas. Include what you have learned and questions you may still have.

### **Step 7**

Create a rough draft of your production design. In the rough draft, identify how you will present your ideas to the director of the movie.

Remember, you are recreating a scene for a specific time period and each of the items in the scene needs to be historically correct. Take notes that identify the different cultural and artistic trends that are represented in your production design as well as why you selected each item in the scene. Your notes need to identify how each item represents the cultural and artistic trends that reflected and/or influenced ideas and values during the time period you selected.

Design Notes:

- Develops a rough draft of your production design identifying historically correct visual representations of items from the United States a specific time period.
- Notates the connection between each item and the cultural or artistic trend it represents and how this trend reflected and/or influenced ideas and values during the specific time period.
- Develops your works cited page that identifies where you received any information, images and other materials.

### **Step 8**

It is now time to create your final presentation. This is where you put together everything you have been learning in order to create a historically accurate scene from the time period you selected. At this point most of your research should be done but as you put your scene together you may find that you need to go back and add additional items or make changes to your design. This is part of the artistic process.

By the end the week you will be ready to give your presentation to your instructor. You will use your instructors scheduling calendar to set up a meeting for the presentation of your production design and a Discussion Based assessment. During your presentation be prepared to explain why you selected any additional items you did for your production design since your last progress review meeting. You will also be asked to discuss a variety of historical events from the time period you selected and how these events may have played a role in the development of the items you included in your production design.

Final Production Presentation:

- Depicts an historically accurate scene from the 1920's that shows understanding of



artistic and cultural trends of this time period.

- Discusses historical events that impacted the art and culture during this time period.

**Deliverables:**

- Final production presentation
- Oral presentation of the production design
- Discussion Based Assessment

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**C. Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

- An understanding of how cultural and artistic trends reflect and/or influence ideas and values during specific time periods such as the 1920's and Great Depression.

**D. Materials needed:**

You will need access to the Internet to conduct research.

**E. Time requirements:**

This task will take approximately 2-3 weeks to complete. Your teacher will provide additional information regarding deadlines and due dates.

**F. Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the Intellectual and Artistic Expression Rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.