



Advanced | Exemplar Essay

## Is It Art?

### The Art of Self Expression



#### Claim and Focus

A clear, specific claim is stated in the introduction of this essay (“Graffiti is art because it encourages artistic planning, can create jobs, and is becoming more modern”). The essay stays focused on the topic and thoroughly develops the claim throughout.



#### Support and Evidence

Relevant, useful information is cited throughout the essay. References to a variety of sources are present and the information chosen clearly supports the claim (“Anything that requires planning and creative elements should be art”). A full understanding of the topic and texts is demonstrated.



#### Organization

This essay has a strong organizational structure that includes an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Clear transitions develop the connections between and among ideas (“In spite of,” “As a result,” and “First off”). The writer’s message is clear and supported by showing connections between the claim, counterclaim, and evidence provided.



#### Language and Style

The essay maintains a formal tone throughout the essay, utilizing varied sentence structure to enhance the argument. Precise language is used (“expresses,” “showcasing,” and “preparation”) to support the claim. The essay addresses the topic thoroughly and attends to conventions while fully engaging the reader.



#### Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait ‘looks like’ in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see “25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays” by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

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#### Notes

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Art is the definition of self-expression, individuality, and creativity. When most people think of graffiti they think of "tags" of someone's name or scribbles of letters on a wall, but when I think of graffiti I think of big, beautiful, multi-colored works of art that took weeks of preparation and planning. Graffiti should not be treated as an annoyance of a major kind. Graffiti is art because it encourages artistic planning, can create jobs, and is becoming more modern.

First off, in the article Graffiti as Art, the text states, "the manner in which graffiti art is executed is the only obstacle it faces in being considered an art form." On paragraph 3 of the article also used above, it states, "However, larger pieces require planning and imagination and contain artistic elements like color and composition." Anything that requires planning and creative elements should be art. There is a lot of time and effort that goes into many pieces of graffiti, and that should be taken into consideration when deciding if something is art.

Next, many graffiti artists have been, and can be, discovered through these unbelievable murals they create. They also have an opportunity to be employed to do legal art work for others. By them knowing how to do this, they can have a future ahead of them. Also, on CBS News, Aaron Rose, a museum curator, states, "Part of our goal with this exhibition was to kind of, maybe steer, young graffiti artists away from doing illegal work, and getting more excited about the fact that they could possibly have a real career in this." Several graffiti artists have been discovered by doing graffiti illegally. This is a positive part to graffiti that often goes unnoticed.

Futhermore, graffiti is becoming more common. In Los Angeles, the



Museum of Contemporary Art in LA is trying to change opinions of the cynics. This museum is showcasing graffiti artists. This allows those who normally have a bad opinion on graffiti to see it in a different light. Graffiti is becoming more modern and will continue to do so in the future.

As a result, the positives of graffiti outweigh the negatives. Graffiti is a great way to express oneself, and can be beneficial to those with talent. Since it can take great planning and procedure, along with creating future jobs, it should be considered art.