



# **2025 AP<sup>®</sup> 3-D Art and Design**

**Sustained Investigation**

**Analytic Scoring Rubric and Score Rationale**

**Row A–Score 2**

# Written Evidence

## Sustained Investigation

Identify the inquiry that guided your sustained investigation.

Response:

I'm exploring the juxtaposition of flow and structure through physical tension, suspended balance, and contrasting materials. Flow is often seen as seamless—like water or curved lines—but true flow relies on structure. Water moves freely because of its molecular bonds. I'm drawn to this contradiction: flow and structure, often opposites, actually rely on each other. In my work, I show this tension through suspended forms or materials pulling against each other, revealing how tension doesn't disrupt flow—it enables it.

Describe ways your sustained investigation developed through practice, experimentation, and revision.

Response:

In early pieces, I explored flow and structure by experimenting with varied materials. A formative assignment limited us to shared items without typical tools like glue, forcing me to rethink how to manipulate form. I melted plexiglass to bend rigid shapes into curves (image 5) and later poured resin to freeze a splash mid-air (images 10–11). Liquid became solid; flow became structure. Each trial, even failed ones, taught me how to push balance, suspend form, and control motion through material.



# Image 1

Sustained Investigation

Height: 5.5

Width: 13.4

Depth: 3.6

Materials:

3D prints (x4); hot glue; silver, white, and blue spray paint; pile fabric; plastic bag; wire

Process(es):

Hot glue for drips, wire wrapping=structured flow, suspending parts for tension, melted plastic bags

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

## Image 2

### Sustained Investigation

Height: 5.4

Width: 3.1

Depth: 3.6

#### Materials:

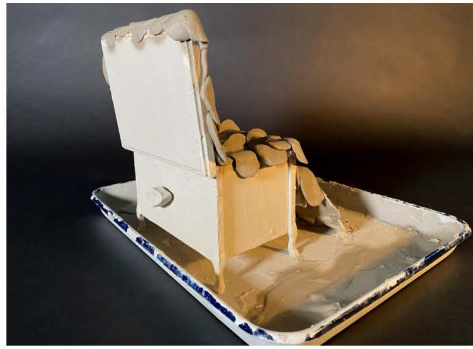
Broken 3D print of splash, plastic bag, white spray paint, blue water-color paint, wire

#### Process(es):

Suspend halves of 3D printed splash, melted plastic, dripped water color, wire spiraled

Use of Digital Tool(s): No





## Image 3

Sustained Investigation

Height: 18

Width: 14.2

Depth: 9.3

Materials:

Old jewelry box with mirror, clay+slip,  
dish

Process(es):

Entirety covered in slip, clay symbolizing  
waterfall, mirror=reflective nature of  
water, box=structure

Use of Digital Tool(s): No



## Image 4

Sustained Investigation

Height: 7.4

Width: 5.2

Depth: 5.2

Materials:

Glass, hot glue, white and silver paint, silver spray paint, wire

Process(es):

Wire=structure/tension, drip hot glue=flow, metallic=reflective nature of water representing flow

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

## Image 5

Sustained Investigation

Height: 3.3

Width: 2.2

Depth: 1.6

Materials:

Bar of soap, plexiglass, water, popsicle stick

Process(es):

Carve soap, melt/bend plexiglass with torch, all swirls+parts connected with water/soap

Use of Digital Tool(s): No







## Image 6

Sustained Investigation

Height: 13

Width: 9

Depth: 5.5

Materials:

Masking tape, former project (base)  
made of clay

Process(es):

Rolled tape for bubble-like figures.  
sticky=tension. smaller to larger circles=  
flow

Use of Digital Tool(s): No





## Image 7

Sustained Investigation

Height: 14

Width: 13

Depth: 14.5

Materials: Masking tape

Process(es):

Rolled up and cut masking tape; circular shape and growth from small to larger circles=flow

Use of Digital Tool(s): No



## Image 8

Sustained Investigation

Height: n/a

Width: n/a

Depth: n/a

Materials:

Tin foil, paper mache+glue/water, clay mold, air dry clay, slip, paintbrushes

Process(es):

Let paper mache+tinfoil harden on ceramic mold, place air dry rings for ripple, paint slip for unity

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s):

Referenced google images of ripples and splashes



## Image 9

Sustained Investigation

Height: 6.4

Width: 7.9

Depth: 6.7

Materials:

Tinfoil, paper mache, air dry clay, wire, slip.

Process(es):

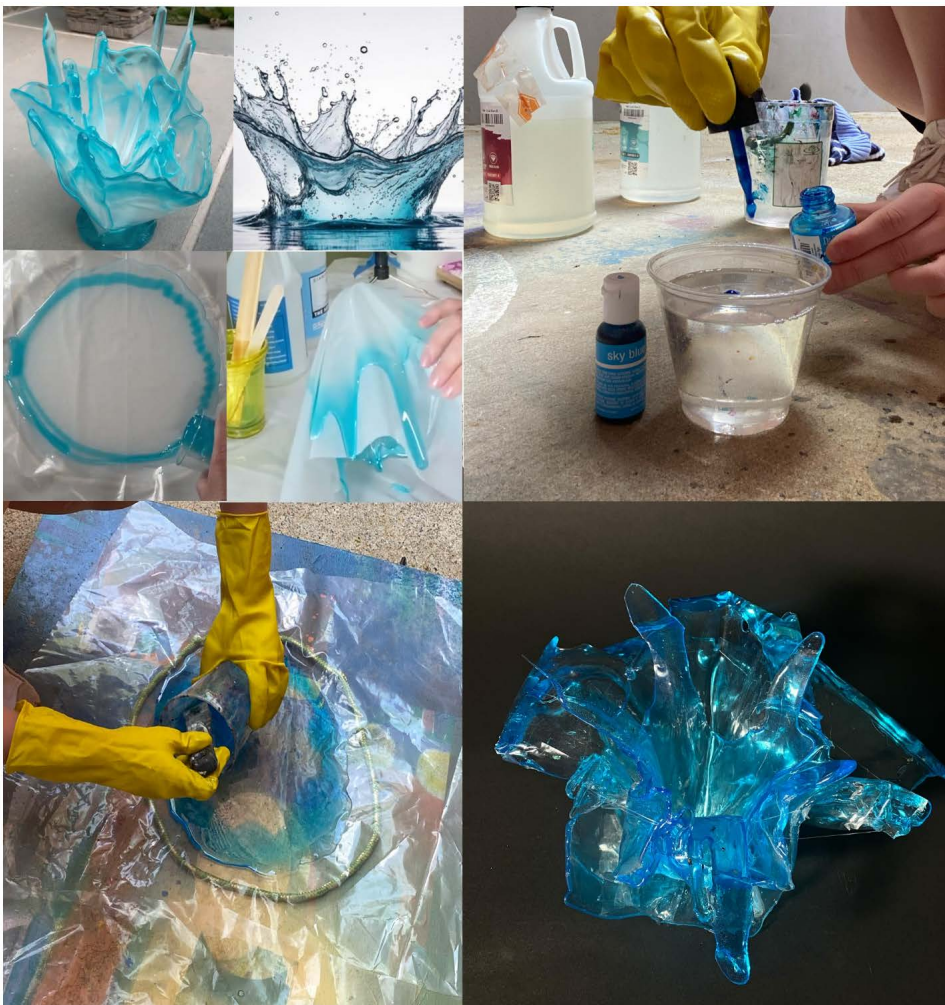
Paper mache over tinfoil (structure), air dry clay (ripples/drops), slip (unity), wire (suspension)

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s):

Referenced google images of ripples.





## Image 10

### Sustained Investigation

Height: 8.9

Width: 13.4

Depth: 12.3

#### Materials:

Clear dry resin, blue tech drawing ink

#### Process(es):

Stir resin+ink, pour 3 circles, hang mid-cure, layer 3 pieces, rigid structure to create splash

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

#### Citation(s):

Referenced google images of splash and YouTube video of resin tutorial



## Image 11

Sustained Investigation

Height: 23.5

Width: 14.3

Depth: 13.2

Materials:

Clear dry resin, blue translucent paper,  
wire, fish line

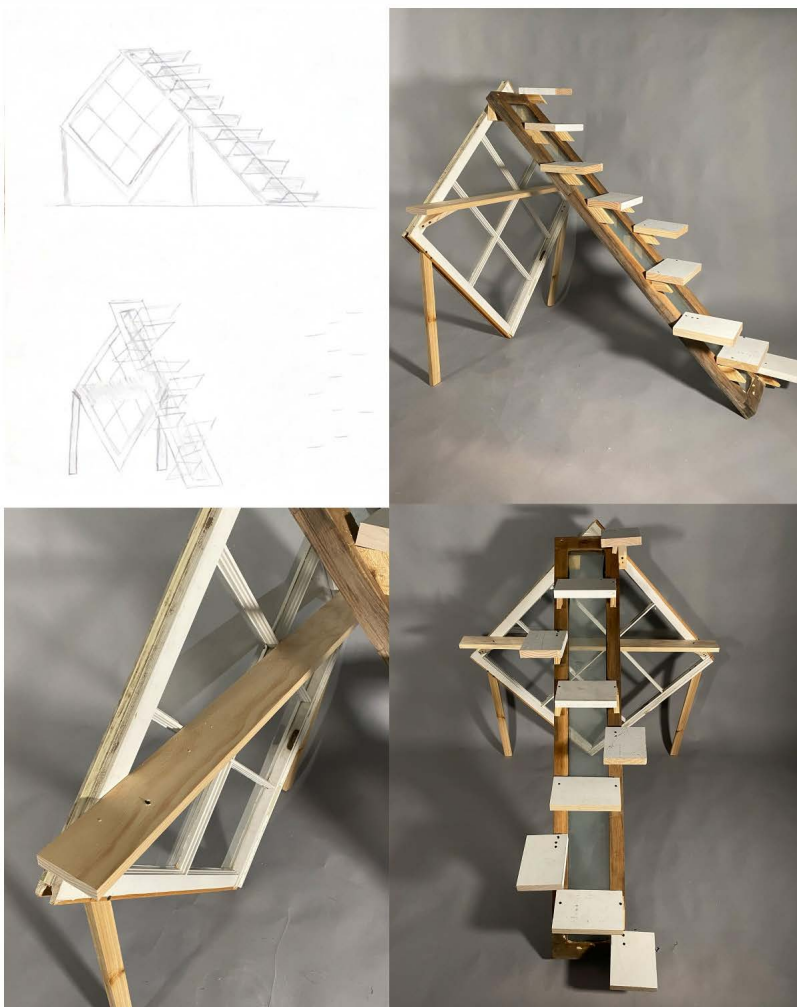
Process(es):

Spilling effect of translucent paper into  
splash, cured resin/wire=structure,  
splash/blue paper=flow

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used:

Referenced google images of pouring  
water creating a splash for revised  
piece.



## Image 12

### Sustained Investigation

Height: 44.1

Width: 48.3

Depth: 36.5

#### Materials:

Glass block window, transom window, wooden slabs, wooden 2X4 and 2X1, screws

#### Process(es):

All pieces drilled together for sturdy structure, slabs placed in winding descension (flowing path)

Use of Digital Tool(s): No



## Image 13

Sustained Investigation

Height: 44.1

Width: 48.3

Depth: 36.5

Materials:

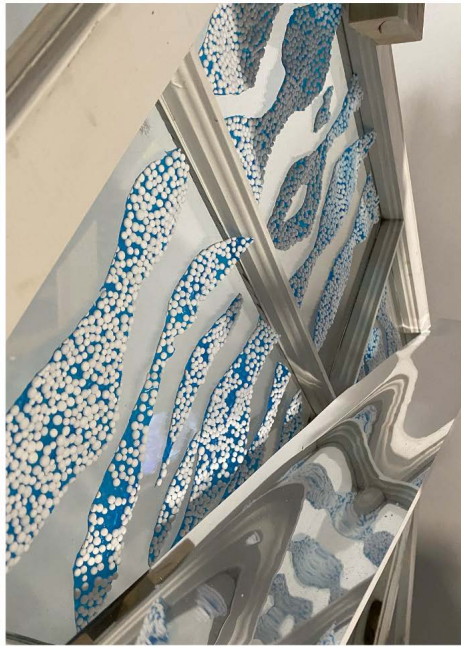
Metallic paper, blue and white foam, rocks, blue translucent paper, glitter, hot glue

Process(es):

Metallic/translucent/shiny  
materials=properties of water(flow),  
wood/rock=structure, waterfall-like

Use of Digital Tool(s): No





## Image 14

Sustained Investigation

Height: n/a

Width: n/a

Depth: n/a

Materials:

Metallic paper, blue and white foam, rocks, blue translucent paper, glitter, hot glue

Process(es):

Juxtaposition of flow representative materials detailing a sturdy structure (tension and flow)

Use of Digital Tool(s): No



## Image 15

Sustained Investigation

Height: 44.1

Width: 48.3

Depth: 36.5

Materials:

Twisted glass vase, white lined clay vase, mirror adhesives on jar, silver ballon weight, silver duct

Process(es):

Transparent/reflective=properties of water(flow), added flow detail to further combine flow+structure

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

## Analytic Scoring Rubric Row A: Inquiry

**Writing Prompt 1:** *Identify the inquiry that guided your sustained investigation.*

1	2	3
<i>Written</i> evidence <b>does not identify</b> an inquiry.	<i>Written</i> evidence <b>identifies</b> an inquiry <b>AND</b> <i>Visual</i> evidence <b>demonstrates</b> the inquiry.	<i>Written</i> evidence <b>identifies</b> an inquiry. <b>AND</b> <i>Visual</i> evidence <b>demonstrates</b> the inquiry. <b>AND</b> The inquiry <b>guides</b> the development of the sustained investigation.

### Score Rationale

This portfolio earned a score of 2 because the written evidence identifies an inquiry, and the visual evidence demonstrates it, but the investigation is not consistently guided by that inquiry throughout the body of work. The written statement introduces a strong conceptual foundation: “the juxtaposition of flow and structure through physical tension, suspended balance, and contrasting materials.” The artist further reflects on “how tension doesn’t disrupt flow—it enables it,” which presents a compelling line of questioning. However, this idea is not consistently developed or clarified across the investigation.

Some images, such as Images 7 and 9, present visual responses that clearly explore this tension between flow and structure through material contrasts and spatial relationships. However, the body of work lacks a consistent visual thread or progression that deepens the investigation of the inquiry. Several pieces lean into material exploration or formal contrasts, but without a clear visual or conceptual evolution. As a result, while both the written and visual evidence meet the basic criteria for a score of 2, they fall short of the consistency and cohesion needed to support a score of 3.

**Summary:** The written evidence identifies an inquiry, and the visual evidence demonstrates the inquiry in some works. However, the sustained investigation is not clearly or consistently guided by that inquiry across the body of work, supporting a score of 2 in Row A

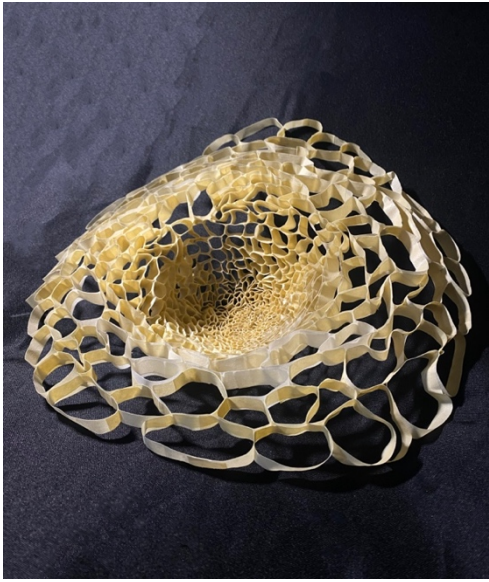


Image 7



Image 9

Sustained Investigation Score: **Row A: Score:2** • Row B: Score:2 • Row C: Score:2 • Row D: Score:2