

Do You See What I See?

Empowering Student Voice



PRESENT your point of view about a piece of public art. The art could be a sculpture in a town square, a mural displayed on a building, or a mosaic in a school hallway. The art may be nearby in your local community or in another city or country. Research when the art was made, who designed it, the title, and any descriptions about its origin and the public's response to it.

Consider the decision-making process involved. Who might have proposed, commissioned, or funded the work? What other works might have been considered before this one was selected? Share with others the insights you learned about the historical context, artist's intent, and community reaction to this art.



Leadership Leads to Liberty, Cierra S.



RESPOND to the insights others share about the art you selected. What might this represent? Do the messages this statue or mural conveys reflect what you and those you are talking with value? How can your conversation reveal different points of view and honor multiple voices?

RESPOND to the public art and research insights that classmates present. Why does the presence of art in public spaces matter to the community? What are some of the roles or purposes for public art displays and installations? For example, do some murals and statues help you see others' points of view? Do some pieces challenge community values or break stereotypes? What art instills pride? What art sparks debate? Why?



CONNECT your thoughts about the art you researched with the community's strengths and sources of pride. Think too about members of the community who are not represented in public art. How can decisions about what art is displayed in a community be intentionally inclusive and represent contemporary community values?



CREATE a sketch for a new sculpture or mural that you would like to see displayed publicly in your town or as a replacement for public art that you researched in another community.

Title your sketch and describe what it represents. Write a statement that would convince others that this creation would enhance the public space and inspire respectful discourse.

