

Viral Imaginations: COVID-19

Ekphrastic Art and Viral Imaginations

By

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Viral Imaginations: COVID-19

The Pennsylvania State University

Level: Grades 7-12 and Above

Lesson Objectives:

- Students will engage in visual and written analysis of creative works from the [Viral Imaginations](#) website.
- Students will investigate how creative works can be interpreted in many ways.
- Students will discover how creative works can interact with one another.
- Students will produce their own creative work, reflecting on the piece selected from the *Viral Imaginations* gallery and archive.
 - Students selecting a piece of visual art in the *Viral Imaginations* gallery and archive will respond through creative writing.
 - Students selecting a piece of creative writing in the *Viral Imaginations* gallery and archive will respond through visual artmaking.
- Students will have the opportunity to participate in a historical archive of pandemic art.

Materials Needed:

- Access to [Viral Imaginations](#) website (viralimagnations.psu.edu).
- Access to artmaking materials of your choice for students to create their artistic reflection in the prescribed form.

Summary of Tasks/Actions:

TEACHER PREPARATION:

- The teacher becomes familiar with ekphrastic art by reviewing:
 - [Quinlan Art Center: Ekphrasis for the Masses](#)
 - [Notes of Oak: Ekphrastic Poetry: When Art Kindles Literature](#)
 - [What is Ekphrastic Poetry?](#)
 - [The Anti-Ekphrastic: Art Inspired by Text](#)

INTRODUCTION:

- The teacher will introduce students to the concept of ekphrastic art.

- The teacher will introduce students to the *Viral Imaginations* website as the source of original art for reflection and response.

EKPHRASTIC ARTMAKING:

Ask students to:

1. Select either a piece of visual art or creative writing from the *Viral Imaginations* gallery and archive (<https://viralimagination.psu.edu>).
2. Reflect on the selected work.
3. Respond to the selected work using a different artistic medium. For example, if the selected work is a piece of visual art, the responsive work would be creative writing.

DISCUSSION:

- After students have completed their reflective responses, hold a class discussion in which the original artworks and the students' creative responses are shared.
- The following prompts can be used for engaging dialogue:
 - Why did you select the original piece from the *Viral Imaginations* gallery?
 - Why did you choose the medium selected for your creative response?
 - What were you attempting to convey in your response?
 - How does your response engage with the original work?
 - Do the two pieces together create a new or expanded message?

FOLLOW-UP:

- Encourage students to obtain parental permission and upload their responses to *Viral Imaginations* website at <https://viralimagination.psu.edu/submit/>