**PAPER PROMPT: COMPARATIVE EXPRESSION ESSAY**

Description: For this essay, each student will choose two specific works of art from two different cultures. They will then write a paper comparing and contrasting these works to see how human expression is affected by such factors as environment, time, materials available, lifestyle, and community values. The point of this paper is to perform a cultural analysis and to study how creative works are both tied to the culture of their production (i.e. context) while also containing some universal values and themes. Possible topics of discussion include, but are not limited to: form, function, purpose, subject matter, representation, new art perspectives/inventions, placement, materials, proportions, etc. Also, remember that this is not fully an opinion essay.

I decided to do my essay between the differences and comparisons of Vincent van Gogh and Leonardo Da Vinci. I gathered my research from numerous sites to find the best ways of identifying these two artists. To begin, I will tell you about Vincent van Gogh and some insight on is past and what were some things to have known about him. Next I will explain some of his creations he has painted over his life. I will repeat the same process with Leonardo Da Vinci. To close up with I will give you some contrast and comparisons of the two artist and what were some of the same ways in painting they had for instance if there colors were the same in blend or if the texture of their pieces were identical in anyway.

Vincent van Gogh was born on March, 30 1853 in sunder, Netherlands. He had memorable artworks such as one of his most famous “ the stary night” this piece was full of all types of textures the blends in his paint went from blue to light blue to yellow in swirls in the sky over a town with a church in the middle and house all around, the church had a large steeple. The night was dark and there was nobody around. Mountains in the background dark and leery round. Nothing but round and circular lines were in the sky, but down below in the town was full or corners and stops. The colors all have gotten darker. This piece gives off a dramatic vibe and sends an understanding amount of attention to pull you in to the picture. Another painting that was very famous of his was “the night café” this painting has many objects used to create such realistic outline. There is a pool table in the center of what looks to be a little sandwich joint. Yellow gleaming shanderlears hung from the ceiling. There was tables around the walls and people but only a few were sitting in the chairs. There was a man standing up with a white trench coat on. Your eye gets sent to it immediately after glancing at the picture straight to the man in white. I’m not sure if van Gogh meant to give such an eye catcher, I fell personally that there’s a story behind the man and he was painted because he was such an impacting memory in van Gogh’s life.

Van Gogh had a famous quote “if you hear a voice within you say you cannot paint, then by all means paint ,and that voice will be silenced” this quote means that if somebody says you can’t paint you have to then prove them wrong and make sure you do whatever it takes to complete that task. Some interesting facts about Vincent van Gogh that I think should be known are, van Gogh suffered from temporal lobe epilepsy as well as other mental and physical conditions. Another fact, Vincent shot himself in a Wheatfield in auvers, France but he did not die surprisingly two days later. Vincent van Gogh died at the age of 37. He had brother who was expected but died at birth. His name also was Vincent van Gogh. One last thing I like to add is that he once got his ear taken in a fight by a French artist, Paul Gauguin. That must have been pretty pain full especially not having the type of medical help we have today. The reason why I decided to pick Vincent van Gogh was because his painting were very interesting to me and I have “the stary nights” painting in my room. He shows a lot of colors and knows how to blend the right colors together to give off the best contrast making the painting come alive. He uses the outside views and pictures from the real world to imitate them in his art works making creative realistic thoughts and putting them on a canvas. I also liked the fact that he had multiple mental and physical conditions yet he did not let it get the best of him. This also made it harder for him to create art. But he still made some of the greatest artworks of all time. When he was younger he mainly focused on drawings when he got a little more interested he started paintings, he created over 30 self-portraits using many different techniques.

 The Great Leonardo Da Vinciwas born on April 15, 1452 in Vinci Italy. This was a man with such unbelievable art work of his time, creating such paintings like the “Mona Lisa” “the last supper” “Vitruvian man”. These paintings are currently in museums around the world. The “Mona Lisa” is just a simple painting of a women with pale skin starring straight in your eyes the texture and realistic approach on this is very good. There are mountains behind here but in the distance. She’s wearing a black dress with a black scarf draping on her arms. The way her lips are placed on the face is perfect as if it was a photo taken. Her hands are also so smooth and calm. The fingers were each all even but none having the same stance or movement. This painting became extremely famous. Also “the last supper” this painting is on big peace of rock like material. Jesus is the middle of a table with his disciples joining him in a meal to eat and drink the body and blood of Christ. The emotions in this painting really show how everyone was communicating to one another. Leonardo Da Vinci also had a famous quote “art is never finished, only abandoned” I feel that this quote means that you can never finish an artwork, you think in your mind that you have finished it but you actually haven’t , you just left it. Something’s that I feel people should know is, Leonardo Da Vinci wasn’t just an incredible artist, he was an inventor, scientist, mathematician, engineer, writer, musician and much more. He lived during the renaissance, this was a time when art and science were the biggest thing to know, he studied everything carefully to hell explain his thoughts. Da Vinci wrote in the opposite direction to what is normal, so basically you would to get a mirror to read his writing. His style of painting has been changed a lot of his years. He first started working for his boss for a period of time. He got sick of painting the paintings his boss wanted him to paint so he started painting portraits and became very famous doing it. I picked leaner Da Vinci cause of the way he portrays his paintings. The way he shows expression on the “Mona Lisa” is so live and realistic her lips and her eyes feel so real to star at. He was very interest in the human body and anatomy, he studied all the body parts remembering and the shapes made in every movement creating these images in his brain for him to then express his thought by painting what he see in movement and action .

I have told you all of the main details you should know about the two artist I have just picked. I know am going to tell you a little about what was similar about these two men and how they have ideas the same but also very different. Vincent van Gogh uses a lot of color and texture in his work. He use what he see in the real world to paint what he see in painting. He uses such free minded ideas that become so bold that they would be so appealing to anyone even though it stranded out and different at times. Leonardo uses the same idea as textures as did van Gogh by creating the alive feeling. Making everything look very realistic. The way these two artist are alike are they make sure the painting puts out a certain importance that is perfect and if slightly changed could through everything off. There style is also similar by the way they use round and swirl in the top but when you look lower in the painting you see more edges and corners. Lines stop or just randomly blend into something that completes the rest of the thought of a certain image. Both of these men had the biggest dedication to work that always came first before anything. Overall both men have the same approach to get into your inner consciousness and fully feel what the artist himself was falling what they thought and envisioned life to be not knowing what the future was going to be like but both had them same thinking of what they imagined it what look like. One difference I would like to say between them would be Leonardo Da Vinci would like sketch out his painting first before painting. On the other hand Vincent van Gogh just grabbed his paint and brush and started painting right on the canvas. This really shows how wild there mind were to find such creative ways to find the best way for them to create what later happens to be so clear and real. Leonardo is more of make sure he gets it right before he makes it perfect kind of attitude. When van Gogh was more of just getting right in to it and not caring about simple mistakes but only making them look better. These were some of the most important similarities and imports things to know about these two men. Creativity is in all of us.