AP Art History
2000 Student Samples

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4. Identify the artist of the work shown on the right. Discuss the uses and effects of light in both works.
(10 minutes)

In A, the use of light creates a suspenseful and secretive air. This helps illustrate the feeling of the woman and her servant as they try not to get caught as they place the head of their decapitated victim into the bag for safe keeping. This is almost the exact opposite of B, in which the subject of the portrait has the light trained almost directly on his face. This portrays him as a modest, simple man who really has nothing to hide. He sits there for the world to see, and is not afraid of their judgement.
4. Identify the artist of the work shown on the right. Discuss the uses and effects of light in both works.
(10 minutes)

The artist on the right's first name is Artemisia and her importance is growing because she is one of the few known female Baroque artists. She uses light in a very dramatic way, much like Caravaggio, in the sense that her painting looks like actors posing on a lit stage.

Rembrandt, on the other hand, is less flamboyant with his use of light in his self-portrait. His chiaroscuro is used more subtly and reveals much of the warmth of his character.

The piece on the left uses light to enhance the ideas of the Baroque composition because the light cuts across the piece in a large sweeping diagonal. The artist also plays with her usage of light through low and high intensity colors.

The piece on the left is more successful in portraying the inner soul.