



## AP Art History 2000 Student Samples

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6. These two paintings take different approaches to contemporary political events. Identify the artist of the painting on the right. How does each work reflect a particular political point of view? (10 minutes)

Both of these two paintings reflect a different attitude towards political events and are reflective of their styles. The painting on the right called the "Third of May" and painted by a Spanish genius Francisco Goya portrays the brutal murder of civilians of Madrid by Napoleon's soldiers. Although Goya was a Spanish patriot he does not brutalize or victimize any side beyond the bounds of reality. Goya abandons realism and instead paints in raw vivid colors with crude sharply angled brushstrokes. The center of his composition is a Christ like figure of a civilian set against the backdrop of Madrid. Meanwhile Benjamin West, painter of the work on the left, unlike Goya belonged to a particular style, the Romantics. This work, "Death of General Wolfe on the Plains of Abraham", shows a typically Romantic composition, where the main themes are personal heroism and death. The perspective is focused on Wolfe and even the condition of the atmosphere reminds us that a grave event has taken place. The setting is of an ideal land.

rape and is also romanticized.

6. These two paintings take different approaches to contemporary political events. Identify the artist of the painting on the right. How does each work reflect a particular political point of view? (10 minutes)

The artist of the painting on the right, "The Third of May, 1808," was Goya. These two works take two differing points of view on political revolutions. In Goya's painting a lone man steps out and surrenders himself to die for his comrades and his country. Goya distinguishes him not only by his gestures but also by painting him in bright colors so that he stands out from his dull colored kin. In the other painting, the artist has portrayed a man about to die from a wound he took for his country. Unlike Goya's martyr this man is embraced by his comrades and his death is mourned. In Goya's painting, a lone man stands up for peace but the others unwilling to notice but in the other, the man's death is praised and will help others to fight for independence.