

"I'VE BEEN WONDERING" AESTHETICS ACTIVITY

Throughout this activity, students will work in small groups to discuss one point of view concerning an aesthetic issue or question. After discussion, each group should present to the entire group the persuasive reasons to support their position. After one side of an issue is presented, another group of students should present the opposing view. From each pair of questions below, assign the first question to one group and the second question to another (feel free to adapt the number of issues discussed according to your needs or schedule).

I've been wondering...

Does an artist have a responsibility to the public?

OR

Is an artist's responsibility only to herself/himself?

Is censorship appropriate if a work of art is shocking and upsetting to a community?

OR

Should artists have the freedom to present anything they wish to the public?

Is ART the object?

OR

Can the idea be ART?

How does someone know if she is an artist or not?

OR

Can anyone be an artist? Does someone have to have special training to be an artist?

Can someone today fully appreciate a work from another culture without an understanding of the cultural context in which it was created?

OR

Is it appropriate to evaluate an object from a non-Western culture in contemporary terms of the elements and principle of design?

What if the city bought a sculpture to place in a city park and the citizens who use the park hate it? Do the citizens have a right to demand that the sculpture be removed?

OR

What if the people who use the park want the sculpture painted a different color than the color chosen by the artist? If the city now owns the sculpture, can the city council have it repainted?

What if the maker and original culture from which an object emerged did not consider the object to be art, but it is in an art museum? Is it ART now even if it

wasn't ART then?

OR

Do viewers of the object have any obligation to learn about the culture that produced it? Who decides what is art and what isn't? Can people disagree about their definitions of art?

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