

Understanding Appropriation in Art: *Conversation Guide*

Use this guide as a starting point for conversations with students about how appropriation is used in art. These questions can be discussed by the whole class or in small groups or used as prompts for written reflection.

Ground Rules

Before starting the conversation, be sure to set some ground rules for how you expect students to treat each other and deal with disagreements about what is discussed.

Example Ground Rules:

- Everyone's opinions are respected and valued in this class.
- We all have the right to feel safe and be listened to
- Your right to share your opinion stops when it infringes on another's rights.

Discussion Questions

1 Study the Work

- How are the images used related to history or culture?
- Do aspects of the work reference something else or have a deeper meaning?

2 Examine Intent

- What were the artist's' goals in making the work?
- What information can you find from the artists or other sources about why the work might have been made?

3 Consider Impact

- How does the work impact the viewer?
- Does the work impact specific communities in different ways?

4 Form an Opinion

- What do you think about the artwork?
- Do you agree with how the artist chose to depict the content?
- Do you think the work accomplished its goal?
- What is the responsibility of the artist when addressing sensitive issues?

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