

Contrast in Art

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Student will be able to create a composition that uses contrast (light/dark, color, size) to increase visual interest.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Black and white paper (or a black marker and white/light paper)
- scissors
- glue stick
- a few bright colored papers or markers
- ruler

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Cut a piece of black paper and a piece of white paper into 6-8 matching-sized shapes each (or draw shapes and color half black, half white).
2. Arrange the black and white shapes on a background page to create a high-contrast pattern or picture, gluing them down.
3. Add 2-3 small accents using a single bright color (like red) placed strategically to draw the eye — this creates color contrast against the black and white.
4. On the back or a separate small section, create a 'low contrast' example using only 2 similar light colors or shades, to compare.
5. Write one sentence comparing how your eye moves differently across the high-contrast piece versus the low-contrast piece.

QUESTIONS

1. **What types of contrast did you use in your high-contrast piece (light/dark, color, size, etc.)?**

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2. **Where did you place your bright color accent, and why did you choose that spot?**

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3. **How did your eye move differently across the high-contrast piece compared to the low-contrast piece?**

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4. Why might a graphic designer use high contrast for a warning sign, but low contrast for a calming spa logo?
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