

# Interview

With a Dead  
Artist!



Cover Art by Douglas A. Sirois

# Some Dead Artists

Pablo Picasso	Grant Wood
Marcel Duchamp	Andrew Wyeth
Henri Matisse	Pierre Renoir
Vincent Van Gogh	M. C. Escher
Claude Monet	Mary Cassatt
Édouard Manet	Alexander Calder
Georgia O'Keeffe	Rembrandt Van Rijn
Piet Mondrian	Red Grooms
Paul Klee	Dorothea Lang
Roy Lichtenstein	Edvard Munch
Elizabeth Catlett	Laura Knight
Michelangelo	Duane Hanson
Salvador Dali	Louise Nevelson
Jackson Pollack	Raphael
Edmonia Lewis	Agnes Martin
Mark Rothko	Frank Stella
Paul Cezanne	Frida Kahlo
Andy Warhol	Katsushika Hokusai
Ansel Adams	Edward Hopper
Georges Seurat	Jacob Lawrence
Robert Rauschenberg	Rosa Bonheur
Albers Joseph	Henri Rousseau
Albrecht Dürer	Marc Chagall
Paul Gauguin	Augustus Rodin
Louise Bourgeois	Tamara de Lempicka
Francisco Goya	Norman Rockwell
Jean-Michel Basquiat	George Segal
Keith Hering	Grandma Moses
Berthe Morisot	Elaine de Kooning
Joan Miró	Willem de Kooning
Gustave Courbet	Jacques-Louis David

*This is not to be considered a complete list.*

## ***The Scenario!***

The dead have come to life again! You'd think the government would be on high alert, schools would be closed, and there would be chaos everywhere... but no. Unlike pop-culture zombie movies, these dead folks are just as normal as they ever were, except partially decayed, but all-in-all, the same. Most zombies have happily found jobs at McDonald's and Walmart.

Your art teacher, apparently a zombie sympathizer, has decided that this is the perfect opportunity for you to actually go out and meet a famous artist and interview them instead of writing a boring research paper. (Don't worry they don't eat brains, they love McNuggets!) Once you select an artist, your teacher will give you a clothes pin for your nose, (zombies are stinky) and send you off with a list of questions to ask, and an outline to follow.

The next few pages offer you 50 potential questions to ask, **TOO MANY**, but your goal is to ask enough to fill out \_\_\_\_\_ full pages of interview. You can always do more but don't do less.

### **Please set up your document like this:**

- One inch margins on all sides, SINGLE spaced.
- 12 point, simple font like Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman.
- Cover page with your first and last name, period, and the interview title.
- Each question and answer should not have a blank space between them.
- New questions can have one space above them.
- Include an example of the artist's work on the last page and label it.
- Bibliography on the last page under the photo. (Every web address you got info from.)

If you can't locate your famous zombie artist, you're going to have to find the answers on the internet or the library. You'll have to get to know the artist to answer the questions like they might. You can find information at the library or on the internet:

- Read websites, blogs, interviews, critiques, and books about the artist
- Watch videos about the artist (Youtube, Vimeo, or other video platforms)

You must save the web address for every website you get information from and you cannot copy and paste information. It must be in your own words. Plagiarism will result in a zero and a referral to the administration for intellectual theft. Just put it all in your own words.

**Please start your interview with an introduction;** it's the polite thing to do. (And required) Something like this would be okay, but please give it your own twist.

I am pleased to present to you this interview with \_\_\_\_\_ who was born \_\_\_\_\_ and sadly died on \_\_\_\_\_. They worked in a style of art called \_\_\_\_\_ in the country of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Possible Questions:

**Answer questions in a paragraph form. Simple one-word or short answers are not acceptable! Write as if it was a conversation, be creative and have fun, *but your facts must be true.***

***IMPORTANT:*** You may make up additional questions based on interesting information you find that these questions do not address. So if the artist is an origami master, you could add a question like "What other hobbies and crafts are you interested in?" and include the info you found out about origami there. Asking "why" or adding "because," helps to expand answers.

**The first 5 questions and the LAST are MANDATORY:**

- 1. Can you tell me a bit about your family and childhood?**
- 2. What kinds of art do you like to create?**
- 3. What do you think makes your work unique or special?**
- 4. What is your most famous work of art?** *(Describe it, include a print-out at the end of the interview and label it with title, artist's name, material, size, and year.)*
- 5. What was going on in the world at the time you were an artist?** *(Just add 20 years to their birth year and find important historical event(s) they might have known about.)*
6. How did you die?
7. What other artists or styles influenced your work?
8. What did the people of YOUR TIME think of your work?
9. Does your art have a message or political point of view?
10. Did anything unusual happen to you as a kid?
11. Were you a religious person?
12. Did religion influence your work?
13. Did you always want to be an artist?
14. Who was your favorite artist or artists?
15. Did you have any friends who were artists too?
16. Did you do any other jobs besides being an artist?
17. Do you have any regrets?
18. Were you famous and successful in life?
19. Did you have a family of your own and were they supportive?
20. Were you ever in love? (Who?)
21. Did love or the lack of love influence your work?
22. How did people come to learn about you or your work?
23. Did you participate in any important exhibitions?
24. What museums have your work?
25. How much did your work sell for during your lifetime?

26. How much might some of your artwork sell for today?
27. How did you learn to be an artist?
28. Did you learn to make art on your own or go to school for it?
29. What is something interesting about yourself not related to your art?
30. What kind of student were you in school?
31. When did you first show signs of creativity?
32. What themes or ideas inspire your creativity?
33. Though you are known for your \_\_\_\_\_, what other kind of art did you do?
34. Did you have any influential teachers, mentors, or supporters?
35. Did you fit in with your friends and neighbors or were you an outcast?
36. How old were you when you started to become well known?
37. What do people say about your art today? (Look up critical reviews)
38. Is there a work of art you made that you do not like?
39. Did you have any pets?
40. Was there a work of art by another artist that influenced you?
41. Did you ever copy another work of art and do it in your own style?
42. Are there any artists that have stolen your art by remaking it in their style?
43. What was something really good that happened in your life?
44. What kinds of problems did you experience in your life?
45. What was something really bad that happened in your life?
46. Was there something in your life you had to overcome? (...and did you?)
47. If you could change something about your life, what would it be and why?
48. If you were living and working today as an artist, would it be easier or harder? (Why?)
49. What do you hope people learn from your art?
50. What do you want people to remember most about you?

**LAST Mandatory Question:** What words of wisdom would you like to end this interview with? (Include a real quote by artist. If you find none, include a quote by a museum about their work.)

**Check your work against the rubric on the next page before you hand it in.**

**Please grade your own project with the rubric below before you hand it in.**

	<b>100</b> Exceeds Expectations	<b>90</b> Meets all requirements	<b>80</b> Meets most requirements	<b>70</b> Meets some requirements	<b>60</b> Deficient	<b>Zero</b> Little or no evidence.
<b>Completeness</b>	Work went beyond expectations with additional length, information, materials, etc.	Work was the correct length and all required elements are met.	Work was about 10% shorter than required and/or a required element was missing.	Work was about 20 to 30% shorter than required and/or a few required elements were missing.	Work was more than 25% shorter than required and/or many required elements were missing.	Hardly anything was completed. Less than 25% of required work was done.
<b>Formatting*</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Margins/Fonts</li> <li>● cover page</li> <li>● introduction</li> <li>● labeled image</li> <li>● required length</li> <li>● websites cited</li> <li>● directions followed</li> </ul>	All requirements were met and some exceeded with exceptional craftsmanship and creative touches.	All requirements were met.  *(See list)	One required formatting element was missing or significantly deficient; like using a larger font, or wide spacing.	Two required formatting elements were missing or deficient like the use large fonts or wide spacing or margins to hide lack of content.	More than 2 required elements missing or significantly deficient. Little evidence formatting was thoughtful.	Most or all required elements missing or significantly deficient.
<b>Originality</b>	Unique, significantly artful, and/or an unexpected approach to the project that enhanced its overall presentation.	The project was original without derivative elements or work copied from others.	The work was fairly original with little that was copied or borrowed from the internet or other sources. All copied info was cited.	Some portions of the work appear to be copied from other sources but cited in the bibliography.	Portions of the work appear to be copied from other sources and not cited properly, but are not willful plagiarism, just carelessness.	Little appears to be the students original work, or it includes significant plagiarism
<b>Depth of content</b>	All portions of the work are focused, rich, and informative. Even creative elements add to its educational value.	The work was focused and on point. None was distracting or “filler.” It provided good and insightful information about the artist.	Most of the work was focused and on point. Little was distracting or “filler.” It provided some good information about the artist.	Some of the work was focused and on point. Some was distracting or “filler.” It provided some information about the artist.	Little of the work was focused. Much of it seemed off topic or did not provide focused information about the artist.	Off topic, incoherent, providing little or no meaningful content.
<b>Grammar Spelling Organization (Coherency)</b>	Good editing and proofreading is obvious. There were no errors. Work flows beautifully; it is well organized, and thoughtful. Professional feel.	Work is free of major spelling and grammar issues. The organization of thoughts is good and free of distractions.	Work could have been improved by proofreading and some errors could have been corrected. There are a few minor organizational issues.	Work contains many issues that could have been solved by some proofreading. The flow of ideas or organization is somewhat distracting.	Grammar and spelling contain significant issues. Little attempt at proofreading is evident making this project very difficult to read.	No attempt was made to proofread or organize content at all. Careless and unfocused.

Recorded Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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