

BAM AT HOME ARTISTS OF IDAHO

ACTIVITY: Abstract or Realistic

Note: This activity and game can be used virtually (Zoom, Skype, etc.), or played by students and members of their household. Please adapt lessons as appropriate.

Supplies

- paper
- pencil, pen, crayon, marker, etc.
- timer (optional)

This is an example of the differences between **realistic** and **abstract** artwork (see pg.3). It is a series of prints by artist Roy Lichtenstein, titled, *Bull Series*, 1973.



This is the first print he made – what animal do you see?
It is realistic and we can easily tell it is an animal – a bull.



Here is the second version he made – what changed?



Here is the third version – what changed this time?



Here is the fourth version.



Here is the fifth version.



Here is the sixth version– Can you tell it started as a bull? Why or why not?

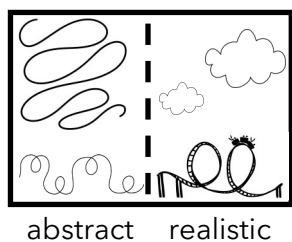
The bull is now being represented as only lines, shapes, patterns, and color – not the way a real animal looks.

DRAWING GAME: Abstract or Realistic

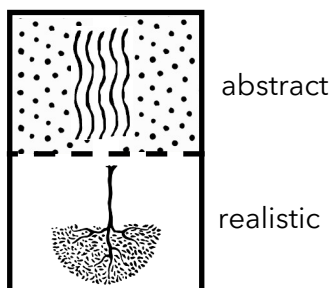
Below are three ways to play this drawing game. Choose one option.

Solo Play

1. Fold your paper in half (either the long or the short side will work).
2. On one half, draw an abstract image. Think about lines, shapes, and forms.
3. Unfold your paper. (Your two work areas should be side-by-side, not back-to-back.)
4. Observe your abstract drawing—are there any areas that remind you of something realistic?
5. Expand your drawing onto the blank half of the paper, this time drawing realistically.
Maybe your lines, shapes, and forms become an animal, a building, or a landscape!

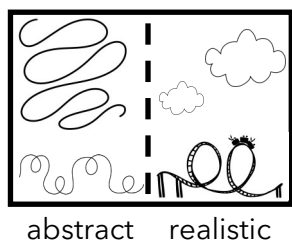


OR

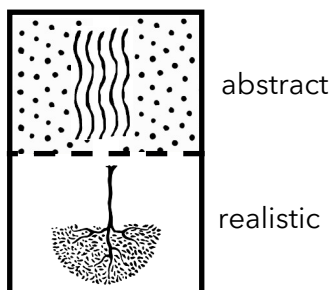


Partner Play

1. Fold your papers in half (either the long or the short side will work).
2. On one half, each partner will draw an abstract image. Think about lines, shapes, and forms.
3. Swap papers with your partner. Unfold your partner's paper.
(The two work areas should be side-by-side, not back-to-back).
4. Observe your partner's abstract drawing.
Are there any areas that remind you of something realistic?
5. Expand your partner's abstract drawing onto the blank half of the paper, this time drawing with a realistic style. Maybe your lines, shapes, and forms become an animal, a building, or a landscape!



OR



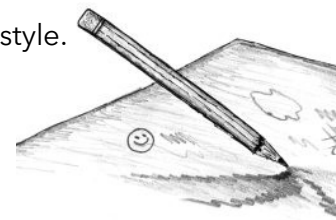
Group Play

In the group version, this drawing game is like the game telephone.

You will need a timer. Set it to repeat every 20 seconds.

Each player has 1 paper and a drawing tool (pencil, marker, crayon, etc.)

1. Start the timer.
2. Draw lines, shapes, and forms – abstract drawings – on your paper, until the timer rings.
3. Pass your paper to the person on your right.
4. When you receive the new paper, add to the existing drawing using a realistic style.
5. Continue to pass every 20 seconds, alternating between realistic and abstract drawing, until you get your original paper back.



DRAWING GAME: Abstract or Realistic

Wrap-Up

- How did you decide what to draw?
- Did you prefer making abstract or realistic drawings? Why?

Artists who make abstract artworks are paying close attention to lines, shapes, forms, colors, and patterns.

In the next mini-lesson you will observe and discuss two ceramic sculptures.

Here is a sneak peek:



abstract

relating to general ideas or qualities rather than specific people, things, or actions



Caroline Earley, *Stasis VII*, 2019, ceramic, 7" x 10" x 5.5".

realistic/representational

true to life or nature



James Cook, *Windfalls - Old Fire Site*, 1988, oil on canvas, 36" x 70".