

Grades 11–12

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To Restore Or Not To Restore?

AP Art History

Essential questions:

Should works of art be restored to their original condition?

Goals:

Students will know and understand current art restoration issues and formulate opinions about specific restoration projects.

Content:

- Impact of restoration on understanding the movement in Verrocchio's *David*.
- Issues of restoration and original condition.

Skills:

Activity: Write an article on Art Restoration for the Atlanta-Journal Constitution

You are the art critic for the AJC. Your editor has just given you an assignment to write a 500-word article on art restoration for the Sunday Arts and Entertainment section. The editor heard there was some controversy about the restoration of the sculpture of *David* that will be coming to the High Museum of Art in November. The editor knows nothing about art restoration and assumes the same of the AJC's readers. He wants your article to fill them in on the basics, with a focus on the *David*. Your editor is famous for rejecting work that does not include quotes from experts in the field that represent both sides of the issue. He expects balanced reporting. And he wants pictures with copyright releases. You have three days to get a draft finished and one day to revise it.

Research art restoration projects on the Internet.

Resource: www.artwatchinternational.org

Select one or two projects that interest you and read the discussions surrounding the proposed or completed restoration. Create an outline of the issues for each project.

Gather quotations on both sides of the debate. Identify and pull images for consideration. Once you have enough information, write the first draft and send it to your editor.

Assessment:

- ◆ Reporter meets deadlines.
- ◆ Article is comprehensive, includes more than one restoration project.
- ◆ Balanced representation of issues.
- ◆ Issues about restoration are clear.
- ◆ Appropriate images submitted.
- ◆ Writer appears informed about Verrocchio's *David* and its place in history.