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# How to Evaluate and Learn from Your Artwork

KS3 ART & DESIGN

Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

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## What Does It Mean to Evaluate Your Art?

When you **evaluate** your artwork, you're looking at it carefully and honestly to understand what you did well and what you could improve. This isn't about being mean to yourself—it's about being like a detective, hunting for clues about your own artistic skills.

Think of it like reviewing a game you just played. You might ask: Did I score? Did I play as a team? What could I do better next time? Evaluating art works exactly the same way.

Think of it like... watching a video of yourself playing football. You notice when you had good control and when you fumbled the ball. That helps you practice better.

## How to Look at Your Work Objectively

The tricky part is looking at your own art without **bias**—that means without letting feelings get in the way. Try these steps:

**Step 1: Wait a day or two.** Fresh eyes see things differently. If you look right after finishing, you're too close to it emotionally.

**Step 2: Ask specific questions.** Instead of just thinking "this is bad," ask: Did I use colour well? Is the composition balanced? Does it show what I intended? These **focused questions** help you spot real strengths and weaknesses.

**Step 3: Compare it to your previous work.** Look back at art from **three months ago** or a **year ago**. You'll be amazed at how much you've improved. This shows you're actually learning.

Think of it like... looking at photos of yourself from when you were younger. You can see how much you've grown and changed.

## Learning from Mistakes and Successes

Both mistakes and successes teach you something valuable. When something didn't work—maybe a drawing looks wonky or colours clash—write down why. Did you rush? Did you use the wrong materials? Did you not plan enough? Understanding the "why" helps you avoid the same problem next time.

When something works brilliantly, notice that too. What **technique** made it successful? Was it your confidence? Your colour choice? Your patience? Do that thing again in your next piece.

The most important thing is that **evaluation isn't a one-time event**. It's something artists do constantly. Even famous artists like **Pablo Picasso** spent their whole lives evaluating their work and trying new approaches. That's how they kept growing.