

Then and Now

Can you combine images to express a big idea or theme and create a visual metaphor?

1. PERCEIVE

Work through the PERCEIVE card to carefully investigate your artwork. Give yourself a memory test: Put the image face down and try to remember as many things as you can from the image. Make a list of everything you remember seeing in the painting. After you have written as much as you can remember, turn the artwork over and add anything you missed.

2. CONSIDER

Read the background information about this artwork and artist. What are the images and symbols Rosenquist used to show the ideal 1960s American culture? How is this artwork like a puzzle? What other symbols could he have used? If you were to update this artwork, what objects would be important to include?

3. CREATE

Make a collage that reflects American culture today. You may cut out magazine pictures, use personal photographs, and/or draw your own pictures. Be sure to include a personal reference like Rosenquist did with Atwater, Minnesota, the town where he grew up.

Write a statement describing and explaining your choices. Why did you choose the images you combined? How do these together create a metaphor for the United States today?

4. REFLECT

Does your collage include any of the same or related images to the Rosenquist mural? What images are from advertising? What other sources did you use? If you had to pick, which of your smaller images is the most essential and strongest reflection or metaphor for now? Why?