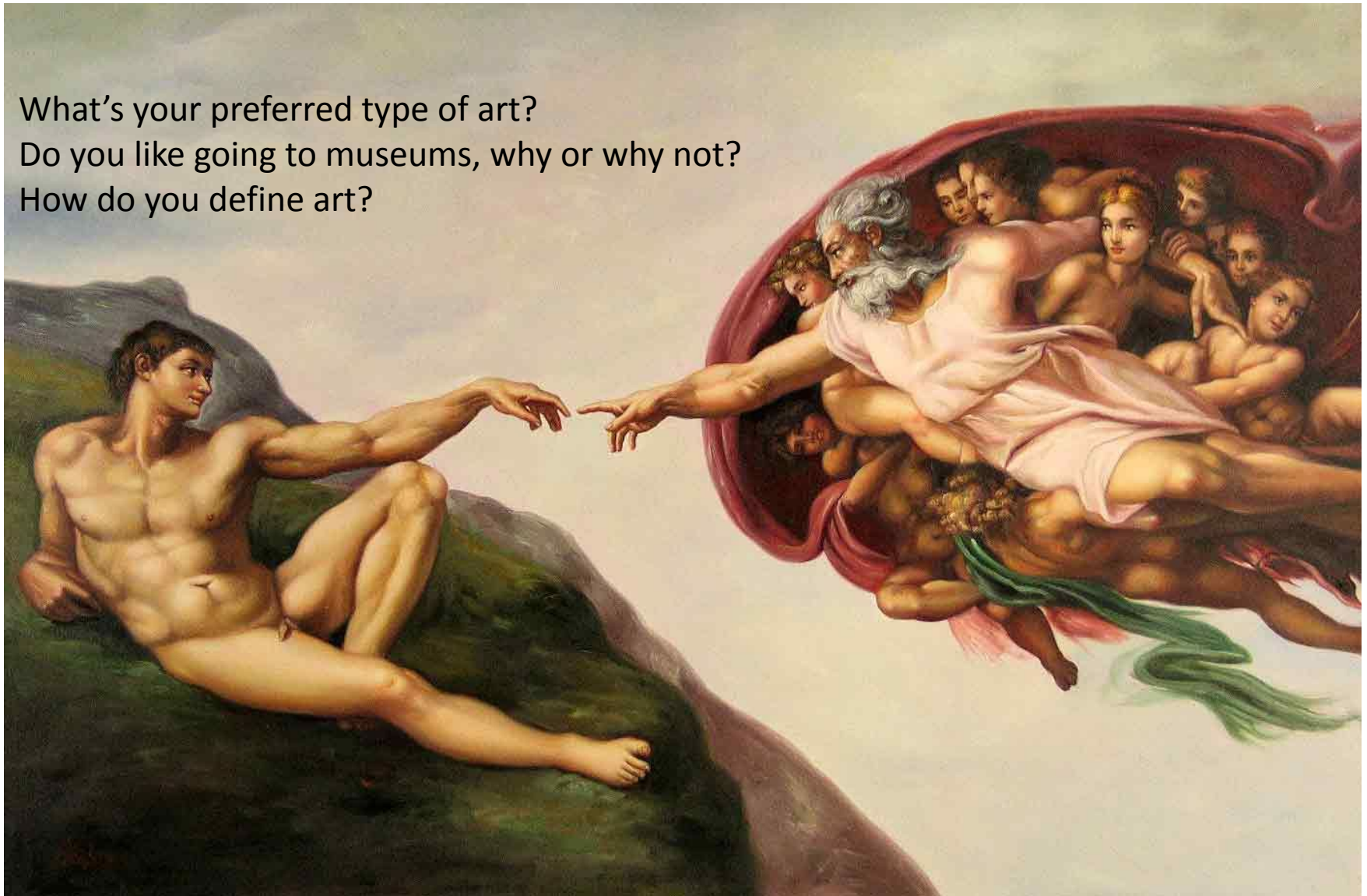




What's your preferred type of art?  
Do you like going to museums, why or why not?  
How do you define art?



## Synonym Match

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. collapsing   | a. cracks      |
| 2. confirmed    | b. conducted   |
| 3. carried out  | c. the climate |
| 4. fractures    | d. started     |
| 5. quality      | e. ordered     |
| 6. embarked     | f. crumbling   |
| 7. depicts      | g. safeguard   |
| 8. commissioned | h. standard    |
| 9. the elements | i. verified    |
| 10. insulate    | j. portrays    |



**5th May, 2014**



Michelangelo's masterpiece statue "David" is in great danger of collapsing due to its weak ankles and the structure's 5.5-ton weight. Scientists have confirmed that cracks in the heels of the giant 5.17-metre-

tall iconic statue makes it susceptible to crumbling under its own weight. The cracks have become the statue's Achilles heel. Tests carried out by Italy's National Research Council and Florence University confirmed the existence of a whole series of "micro-fractures" that have weakened David's ankles. A number of factors have led to this weakening. These include the poor quality of marble and the fact that the statue has been leaning at an angle for centuries and vibrations from traffic and museum visitors.

The sculptor Michelangelo spent three years creating David between 1501 and 1504. He was just 26 when he embarked on the project. The statue depicts the biblical hero who killed the giant Goliath. It was commissioned by the rulers of Florence as a symbol of the city's commercial and military strength. It was unveiled to the public on the 8th of September, 1504 and remained on display outside in the Piazza della Signoria for 350 years. It was moved indoors in 1873 to protect it from the elements. Art lovers have been calling for years for the statue to be relocated to the safety of a purpose-built, earthquake proof museum to insulate it from the vibrations from traffic and road construction.



## True / False

- a) The statue's weak knees may cause it to collapse. T / F
- b) The statue is just over five metres tall. T / F
- c) Tests were carried out on the statue by the University of Rome. T / F
- d) The statue has been leaning at an angle for hundreds of years. T / F
- e) Michelangelo was 26 years old when he starting making David. T / F
- f) The statue was requested and paid for by a rich merchant from Milan. T / F
- g) David stood in the wind and rain for more than 350 years. T / F
- h) David is now housed in an earthquake proof museum. T / F

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about David (and his fight with Goliath)?
- b) Do you prefer paintings or statues?
- c) What do you think about when you look at a statue?
- d) What makes a statue great or rubbish?
- e) What do you know about Michelangelo?
- f) Which of the world's statues would you like to own (and why)?
- g) What are the arguments for and against moving "David"?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a Michelangelo expert?

# David and the Goliath

David was a shepherd boy who lived in Israel. He took care of sheep. God chose David to take care of the Jewish people.

David played the harp. When the king of Israel was tired of fighting in the war, he asked David to play for him. David's music made him feel better.

One day a terrible giant named Goliath started bragging to his soldier friends that none of the Jews would dare to fight him. And he was right. The Jewish soldiers were all afraid of big Goliath. What would happen to the Jewish people?

Then little David said: "I'll fight Goliath. God will help me." And he went and got some stones for his slingshot.

The giant just laughed at him. David put a stone in his sling and flung it. The stone hit big Goliath on the head. Then David killed him with his sword. All of Goliath's friends ran away. The little shepherd boy had saved the Jewish people!



-Michelangelo was often dissatisfied with himself. He considered art as originating from inner inspiration. He was a preoccupied person who withdrew himself from the outside world.

-His keen interest in art left him disinterested in schooling. He would rather spend days copying paintings from churches and keep company with painters. For two years from 1490, he attended Lorenzo's school. It was here that many prominent forms of art and the works of eminent artists influenced him. It was during these years that he was exposed to some of the great works of art.