

## A Brief History of Religion in Art

### Summary

The activity is a discussion about the definition and the aim of art, as well as the integration of religion into art.

### Description of the activity

The activity represents a group discussion around a TED video about religion in art.

The teacher can introduce the topic and ask students what they think about the link between religion and art and to find some examples. Then the teacher tells the students that they are going to watch a video - "A brief history of religion in art" (subtitles are available in many different languages). The students must have writing material in front of them. The teacher explains what they have to do:

- Take some notes about the main topics of the video
- Be ready to reword the definition of art in their own words
- Be ready to reword the definition of "aniconism" (the teacher should write down the word on the board before playing the video) in their own words
- Write down the main religions that are quoted in the video
- Write down everything that seems important to them, what they think about the topic, etc...

Then, the teacher starts a discussion with the students, asking for answers to the different points above. He can write down on the board the answers and ideas of the student. Then, he can ask each of them what idea/theme/fact struck them most.

The aim of this activity is to have an open discussion among students and to make them actively think about the video they just watched and what they learnt beforehand.

### Activity structure

- **Preferred premises of the activity:** the activity should be held in class, or in any place a video can be played. It is important for the premises to be seen as a safe environment where students can feel free to express their thoughts.
- **Resources needed:** A computer, a projector, a white board, and sheets of paper.
- **Recommended number of people participating:** between 15 and 20 students
- **Previous knowledge of participants necessary:** although having some knowledge about the topic is obviously preferable, it is not essential.
- **Activity duration:** The activity can be held as one time event during class.

### Learning Objectives

The students will learn about the link between religion and art and about some terms such as "aniconism".

### Expected Outcomes

The students will have to deal with information from both oral and visual material, and organise those diverse pieces of information.





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They will have the opportunity to have a dialogue and to express their opinions. In addition, it will confront their previous knowledge about religious art with what they learnt from the video.

### **Target group**

Students between 14 and 17 years of age.

### **Subject of the curriculum in which the activity could be implemented**

History

Art

Philosophy

### **Learning objects to be used with this activity**

The TED video “A brief history of religion in art”

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/a-brief-history-of-religion-in-art-ted-ed>



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