



**BRANDYWINE
RIVER MUSEUM
OF ART**

Illustrated Letter: Language Arts and Visual Arts

Objectives:

1. Observe how artist Andrew Wyeth incorporated sketches into his letters
2. Combine methods of written and visual communication in a letter to a friend or family member

Grade Level: Elementary and Middle School

Common Core Academic Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.6 Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.D Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.

Suggested Images: Andrew Wyeth's Letters which are located under the "Walter and Leonore Annenberg Research Center" section of the Museum's database

Introduction: Combining written and visual methods of communication is common. Illustrated books, newspaper articles with photos, and many advertisements use both words and visuals to be effective. In a world of smart phones and computers, people have access to images more than ever before. Pictures and photographs are used in a variety of ways to enhance written words by adding information, helping to break up a lengthy article with a visual, supply illustrated clues and more.

Discover: Look at the letters by Andrew Wyeth. Of the six pages, three include sketches by the artist while the other three only have writing. Why do you think Wyeth included these small drawings? Would you be more interested to read a long letter with or without illustrations or pictures to accompany it? Why or why not?

Assignment:

1. Students will draft letters to family members or friends on a given topic that relates to the current curriculum.
2. After the draft letters are written, students will circle or underline three parts of the letter that would be enhanced by having a drawing included.
3. Students will write or type the final letter, leaving spaces at the 3 different areas that will have an illustration. This can be done by hand or on the computer depending on what is available to the class.

4. Using pencil, students will add sketches in the three different areas and optionally add color.
5. Optional: When the letters are completed, have the students mail them or display them on Open House days for their visitors to see.