

#MyPandemicStory

Submission Guide

Create a work of art about you and your life during the pandemic.

What has life been like for you during the pandemic?

What has it looked or sounded like? How have you felt along the way?

Is there anything that feels totally normal now, but would have felt strange a year ago?

Your work of art could show you in a certain moment or setting.

It could represent something important to you from your pandemic world.

Or it could be about a special memory or strong emotion. It's your art and your story and it's an important one to share.

Brainstorming

Got creator's block?

Try these quick exercises to get your imagination in gear.

Word Associations

1. Write down 5 descriptive words that come to mind when thinking of your life during the pandemic.
2. Pick one of them and imagine how it might be illustrated.

Outcome: sometimes starting small with one idea is easier than trying to capture a lot of feelings and ideas all at once. What could you create based on one of the words or by connecting a few of them?

Mind Mapping

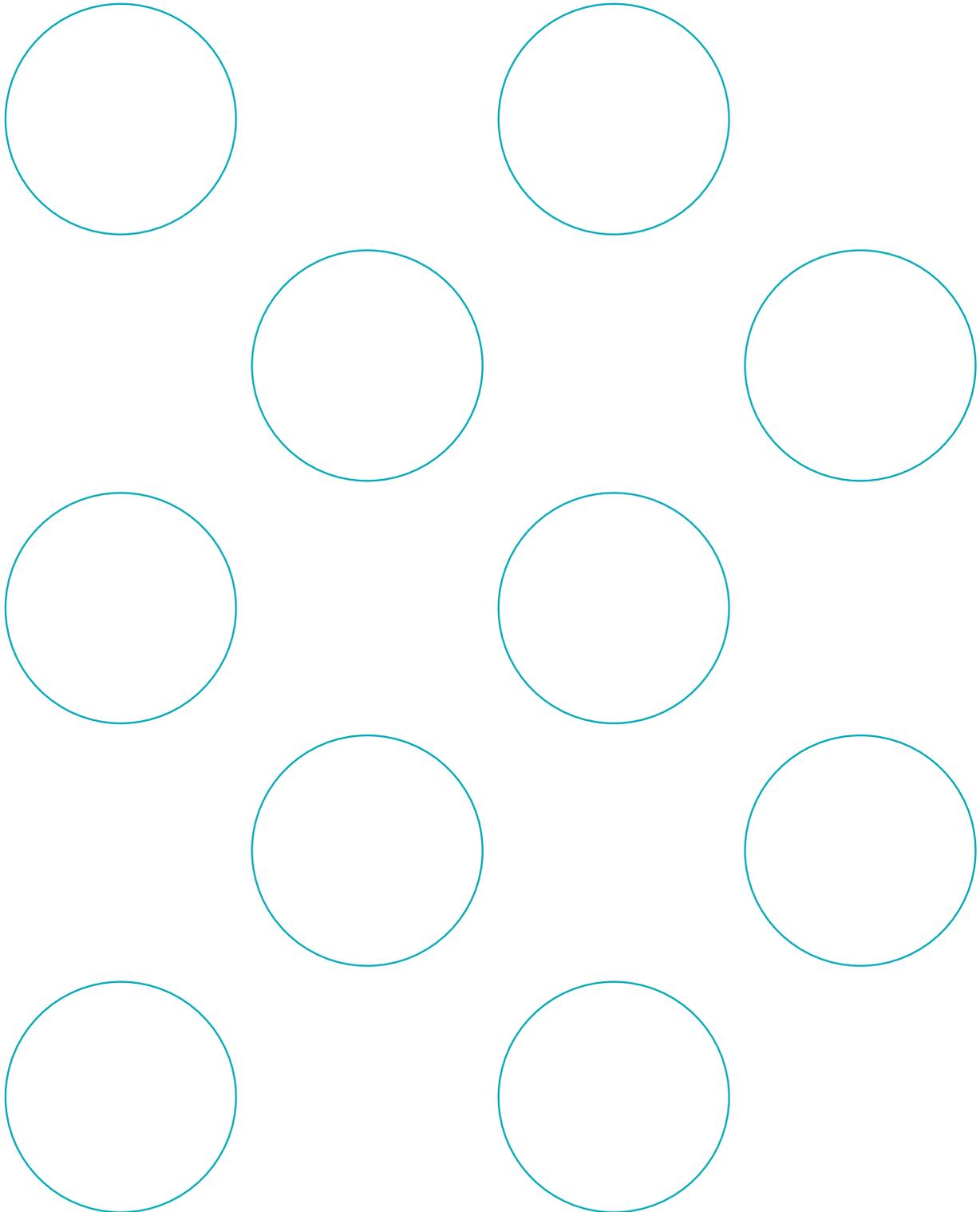
1. Think about your life during the pandemic. Write down all the things that come to mind. (they don't have to be organized... that comes next).
2. Group ideas that are similar or related somehow.

Outcome: is there a group that is standing out the most or becoming the biggest? Maybe that's a good place to start. Can you pull a theme for your creation from that group?

Art Sprint

1. Use this template or draw some circles on a piece of paper (about 10 should do).
2. Set the timer for 3 minutes. Thinking about your life in the pandemic, draw pictures using as many of the circles as you can. So, you might turn one circle into a coronavirus, another into a face wearing a mask, and so on. Ready? Go.

Outcome: sometimes we spend a lot of time stuck on one idea. Coming up with a bunch of ideas really quickly helps us get creative.



Exploring Materials

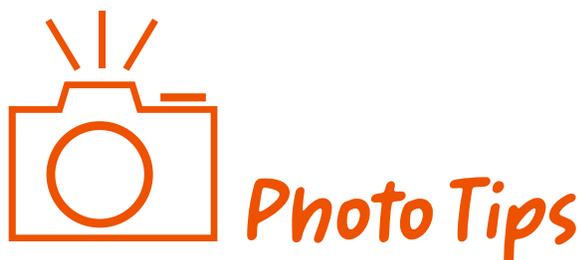
1. How can you use things from home to reflect your pandemic life? What's nearby in your craft supplies or a work-from-home space?
2. Play around with whatever materials you have close by and see if they inspire you.

Outcome: sometimes knowing what you have to work with can help you imagine what to create. If you start building with what you have, it might lead you somewhere new.

How to tell #MyPandemicStory

1. Make a list of all the different ways you can think of to create an artwork, like drawing, sculpture, video, dance...
2. Include any hobbies or crafts that you like to do.

Outcome: is something on the list standing out to you? Maybe there's more than one that could be combined into a creation. Starting with a long list of options can help us narrow down to something that is right for us.



Ready to photograph your creation? Here are some tips to make sure your artwork looks as good in the photo as it does in real life.

1. Set up a clean surface (a table or floor is great) in a sunny spot.
Sunlight makes colours and details pop and helps the camera focus.
2. Place something white, grey, or black under your creation.
This will reduce distracting patterns in the background and keep your creation front and centre.
3. Aim your camera or phone as straight as possible at your creation.
Try to avoid taking photos at an angle so we get to see your entire creation clearly.
4. Try to keep all shadows off your creation.
5. For 2D creations, lay it face up on the flat surface and smooth out any wrinkles or curled corners.
6. For 3D creations, try to leave a little bit of space around your creation when taking pictures and photograph front, back, sides, and top (if needed).

Pro tip: you can create a mini photo booth to shoot your 3D creation using Bristol board and tape. Fold the board in half or thirds so that it can stand on its side (like you might do for a science fair project). This will create a blank background for your creation, reduce shadows, and reflect even light all the way around.

Video Tips

Submitting a video? Here are some options for how to shoot.

1. If you want everything in your video to appear clearly, make sure the light is hitting your scene from the front. Lighting from behind will make you or your scene appear dark.
2. Make sure only the noises that you want in the video are present. Things like wind or background noise are easily picked up by microphones.
3. Consider using a tripod or mounting your camera on a steady surface to avoid shakiness.
4. After you hit record, wait a few second before speaking or moving to make sure everything you want captured makes it into the video.

Pro tip: videos shot horizontally will display better on a monitor because they can fill the whole screen.

Submit your creation

Once your art is ready to submit visit rom.on.ca/mypandemicstory for all the details.

Teacher Tools

#MyPandemicStory can be done with students however you feel is useful for your class. If students would like to submit their creation for the chance to be displayed at the ROM, that must be done at home with their parent or guardian.

Here are some themes that could connect to #MyPandemicStory at school.

1. Look at artists who use non-traditional materials to create their art and tell stories (like Elias Sime, Ana Teresa Barboza, El Anatsui, or Barry Ace).
What is unique to each artist?
2. Discuss why people make art. What kinds of stories are commonly told through art?
What kinds of stories are underrepresented in art? Why?
3. Discuss the fusion of hobbies and art. Can hobbies like knitting, fic or fanart, embroidery, dance, beading, computer games, TikTok, Lego, quilting, gardening, baking, etc. be used to create art? Create a whole-class data organizer and challenge students to populate it with examples of each of these hobbies (or others determined in class discussion) as art.
4. Discuss why the choice of medium is important. For example, are you more likely to create art that is meaningful to you if you are working in a medium you're not comfortable in, or if you are doing something you love?
5. What is an artist's statement? Look up some examples for some of the artwork that inspired you. What are key pieces of information in an artist's statement? Write your own artist's statement for your creation.

Curriculum Connections

Language Arts - Writing, Communication, Critical Thinking, Media Literacy

The Arts - Developing Creativity, Communication, Understanding Culture, Making Connections

Social Studies - Community, Family, Traditions, Culture, Citizenship