AP Portfolio Web Submission – Dimensions – Very Important

Dimensions of your image – this is kindergarten level math – but you would be surprised at how often this mistake has been made.

Please read this carefully. This technically should be the easiest thing to do, but believe it or not, it is where many errors occur. The AP portfolio will ask you for the height and width of all your images.

This is easier to understand for, say, a painter. She just gets out a ruler or tape measure and finds the height and width of the painting and plugs that in the online portfolio. If you have any of your images printed, just get them out and measure them with a ruler or maybe you remember what size you printed them.

However, with many or most of the photography you are submitting, it is a little more abstract. Many or all your images you may have not printed out. So how you think about this you need to picture your images as if they were printed out. When choosing the size, choose standard printing sizes and make sure they are in inches. So 8x10 inches or 11x17 or 12x18, etc. I would not put 36x48 as most prints would be highly pixelated if printed at this size. I would not put 3x5 as then you are being timid as an artist. Unless you have some conceptual reason to print them this size, avoid tiny dimensions.

To get exact dimensions, open your image up in Photoshop and go to Image > Image Size. Make sure the dimensions are in inches and plug in, say, 11 inches for one dimension and you will see what the other dimension is. We may have Photoshop available to you soon in this pandemic, but if not, you can access Gimp Online (see one of my emails about this) on your Google Suite when logged into your learn account. You can open an image up in here and go to Image and then > Canvas Size or Print Size, making sure the dimensions are in inches, and plug in numbers to see how the dimensions end up.
IMPORTANT! You do not have to have your image sized to those dimensions to upload it to the AP site. They cannot measure it in a digital display. You are giving dimensions that it would theoretically have been printed. You don't need to include decimals – just round to the nearest inch. After figuring out the dimension (write them down), ***just close your file and do not save the changes!*** This is important, because you may accidentally lose resolution of your file especially if doing this with Photoshop (unless you know what you are doing with the Resample button – if you have no idea what I am talking about – don't save your file after you plug in your theoretical dimensions for printing.

Also, do not put your dimensions in pixels – yes, students have done this. They will put in 3300x4800 for their dimensions. Really? You are saying your print is 3300 inches by 4800 inches – not possible to print this big! **Why does this happen? Students not following directions**. Change the dimensions to inches.

Additionally, make sure you put in the correct dimension according to height and width.

This may not seem like that big of a deal whether you get it right or not – trust me it is. By not doing it correctly, you waste my time. I have to tell you to make these simple corrections that are seriously at a kindergarten level. I cannot send your portfolio on if any of this is incorrect as the AP Coordinator will not send it off to AP if it is not correct. We are trying to make you not look like an idiot who can do simple kindergarten measurements. Not taking time to get this right shows you don't care or are not very smart and you better dang well care and I know you are smart!