

AP Art and Design 2025: Student Guide to Adobe Tools

What You Can and Can't Use

The AP Art and Design exam requires that all submitted work be **your original creation**. Editing tools are fine, but generative AI tools (that make content for you) are **not allowed**.

✓ You CAN Use (Editing Tools)

These tools help you fix, adjust, or improve the work you made: - Spot Healing Brush (removes dust or small marks)

- Content-Aware Fill (fixes areas of *your* photo/artwork)
 - Improved Remove Tool (“Distraction Removal”)
 - Object or Subject Selection (just helps you select—doesn’t make new content)
 - Curvature Pen Tool
 - Smart Objects and Smart Filters
 - Preserve Details 2.0 (keeps quality when resizing)
 - Lightroom: exposure, cropping, color grading, contrast, sharpening
 - Fresco Live Brushes (digital brushes that act like paint, ink, or watercolor)
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✗ You CANNOT Use (Generative AI)

These tools create or invent new parts of an image for you:

- Generative Fill (using text prompts)
 - Generative Expand
 - Generate Similar & Generate Background
 - Generative Workspace
 - Neural Filters that change or create imagery (e.g., turn a sketch into a photo)
 - Sky Replacement (if it uses AI/stock skies—you must use your own images)
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Quick Test

Ask yourself: *Am I making the choices, or is the tool creating the image for me?*

- If the tool creates new content → ✗ Not allowed.
 - If the tool only edits or enhances what you made → ✓ Allowed.
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Remember: The AP exam celebrates *your* creativity. Use editing tools to polish your work, not to let AI make it for you.