# Educator Overview

Women in Art Spotlight: Jenny Holzer & The Language Arts

 s **Museums** *for* **Digital Learning**

| Audience | Grade levels 9-12 ⌄ | Subject The Arts ⌄ | Topic Contemporary Art |
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| **Guiding Questions** | 1. How does the artist's style evolve and change over time in a comparison of the two works, *Inflammatory Essays* (1979) and *All Falls* (2012)? | 2. What is the relationship between language and power? | 3. Why does the impact of a text change depending on time, context, or voice? |
| **Background Knowledge** | **Narrative** about the life and work of American artist Jenny Holzer and the use of text and language in visual art.<br><br>Consider other background knowledge your student may benefit from knowing (ex. Defining and identifying conceptual art; history of the American feminist movement; the intersection of art and advertising) | | |
| **Content Topics** | 1. An introduction to the life and work of American artist Jenny Holzer<br>  a. **Narrative** biographical information about her significance to twenty-first century art<br>  b. **Timeline** of her style evolution and major career milestones as well as major world events<br>  c. **Escape Room** comprehension activity<br>2. Examples of Jenny Holzer's major works<br>  a. Inflammatory Essays **hotspot**<br>  b. All Falls **narrative**<br>3. **Annotation** - Comparative study of Holzer and other visual artists use of language | | |

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| **Student Engagement** | 1. Students **analyze** the impact of an artwork's context by **comparing** three examples of the artists work in various presentations throughout her career [Activity #3]<br>2. Students **compare & contrast** the use of language and text in visual art [Activity #5] |
| **Other Notes**<br><br>(Supplies needed, independent vs. whole class engagement) | **Additional Resources:**<br>● [Historic and Ongoing Projects by the Artist Jenny Holzer](#)<br>● Hear the Artist in Her Own Words<br>  ○ [Jenny Holzer in "Protest" (SEGMENT) \| Art21](#)<br>  ○ [Jenny Holzer: Programming (SHORT) \| Art21](#)<br>● Examples of Text-Based Visual Artists<br>  ○ [Online Collection - Akron Art Museum](#)<br>  ○ [Text Art: 8 Artists Who Use the Power of Language in Art (mymodernmet.com)](#)<br>  ○ [8 Text-Based Artists to Collect \| Artsy](#)<br><br>**Vocabulary:** conceptual; aphorism; activism; installation; light-emitting diode; aesthetic; minimalist; provocation; |