



## AP<sup>®</sup> Art History 2002 Sample Student Responses

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3. This is a portrait of the French queen Marie Antoinette.

Identify the art historical period in which the work was painted. Discuss ways in which this image employs the conventions of royal portraiture and ways in which it diverges from those conventions. (10 minutes)

The baby she holds in her lap shows her tender care she possesses.

This portrait is from the Baroque period. This image shows Marie Antoinette in rich red velvet, which is typical of the time. The showing off of luxuries was done by all the royalty in the Baroque period. The portrait strays away from the conventions by also having her children in the painting. The children add an emotion not typically seen in this time period's portraits, which is love. The way Marie's daughter lovingly lays her head upon her mother's shoulder conveys what a wonderful mother she is. The reason Marie Antoinette most likely had this painted was to show ~~the~~ people of the time that she was like them, a mother. With the revolution brewing, Marie Antoinette attempts to fit in with her subjects as a mother figure. The mother figure cannot hide the lavish surroundings she is painted in. Typical of the royalty of the time, she is surrounded by luxurious drapes and pillows for her excessive needs of comfort and beauty. Her hat also reveals her excessive nature with its big, oversized plumes. Although she ~~strives~~ attempts to appear not so regal, Marie Antoinette cannot escape her regal surroundings.

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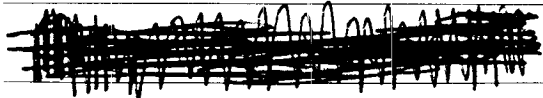
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This piece was produced during the Rococo period, which occurred mainly in England and France. It was produced to please the aristocratic class with flourishes and frivolities, happy couples and swings (though it was also just a continuation of the Baroque taken to a new level).

Unlike earlier court portraits by ~~other~~ artists like Velazquez, Marie Antoinette was captured not in a pose, but in a seemingly everyday ~~of~~ moment. Though she is seen with her children as was traditional, they are not stiff like in Las Meninas, but show movement. It is as if the artist opened the door on a mid-morning play session and recorded exactly what he saw. The portrait glorifies motherhood in the aristocratic sense by having the children rosy-cheeked and well-behaved, while the queen herself is the picture of elegance in her stylish apparel. ~~the artist~~