How can you get the most out of your sketchbook? What can you do to make your art mature at a faster rate?

The answers to those questions can be found in this presentation, and in the feedback given about your sketchbook.
Design your pages two at a time. Open the book and use the elongated format of the two-page spread to work out your design. This will cause your book to look less choppy, and more organized.
Accessibility is Knowledge
This sketchbook will eventually be full of ideas, research, artwork, and feedback. Figure out how to catalogue all of that information in a way that makes sense to you. The goal is that you can use your table of contents pages as a means to capture your information quickly and easily. Believe me, this will help tremendously.

Am I Being Compulsive?
Though it may seem obsessive to keep a record of what is on every page of your journal, it really does make a difference. I keep a journal of my thoughts about life and work, and I use my table of contents all of the time. Sometimes, I just look through the table of contents for something relative to what I’m working on in my job or with my art. You’d be surprised how many times it has provided answers to questions I didn’t even realize I had.

In This Presentation:
01 “Double Truck”
02 Table of Contents
03 Zoom In
04 Personal Response
05 Typography
06 Get Started Early
Try using a part of the studied artist’s artwork as the inspiration for your design. Choose an area that indicates the artist’s style, but also allows you to write in a way that is very visible.
With each artist study, be sure to dedicate enough space to providing your response about the work. It is essential to write down what you think of the work. Be honest, you don’t have to like every artist that I assign.

**BE INTROSPECTIVE**

Write about connections you’ve made with art that you have already studied. You may also want to discuss ways in which you might be able to borrow techniques or ideas from the studied artist. Most importantly, make comments about why you like or dislike the artist’s style, and be specific. Really explain what makes the work successful or not in your eyes.

What you have to say about your research might even be more important than the research itself.
typography

Design with Columns
A general rule of typography is to only use about ten to twelve words per line. Trust me, if you look at good design, you’ll notice this in the use of typography. Why not apply that to your own handwriting? Try to break your commentary down into columns of no more than 12 words per line. This will make your journal much easier to read, therefore much more informative.

Alignment
All designers depend on alignment of elements when creating successful designs. You might also want to consider this in your sketchbook. Using alignment creates implied lines that help guide the viewer’s eye where you want it to go. Take control of your page design, and avoid arranging your elements arbitrarily.

Handwriting Indicates Concern
The quality of your handwriting speaks directly to your concern for what you are doing. Believe it or not, the way you write has a huge impact on the overall quality of your design. Don’t think of your handwriting as only being informative. Instead, think of it as an important part of your artwork.

Typography refers to the way text is used in a design. Always think of your sketchbook as a tool for practicing good design. Be sure that your handwriting is legible, interesting, and organized.
Too many students wait until one or two nights before the sketchbook is due to get started. Then, they complain about how much work is required to earn an “A”. Get started right away, and you won’t feel overwhelmed.

Procrastination Causes Stress
Most of the students in my classes are concerned about their grades, but too many of them wait until the last minute to get started. This is a recipe for sleepless nights, acne, baggy eyes, and lacking focus in class. Take advantage of the fact that I provide OVER A MONTH to get this project finished. Get started as soon as the new artists are assigned.

Use Class Time Effectively
Bring your sketchbook with you to school, even on days when you don’t have my class. When you have extra time in your classes, break out your sketchbook and get some designing done. If you have a study hall, make arrangements to come to the art room when you have finished all of your other school work. Take advantage of the supplies in my room.

idea | get started early