

Name _____

André Breton: The Father of Surrealism

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. André Breton believed that dreams and the subconscious held untapped creative potential. Surrealists aimed to explore these aspects by embracing automatic writing, dream interpretation, and irrationality. They believed that dreams offered glimpses into hidden desires and unexplored realms of human consciousness.
2. Practicing automatic writing is a unique experience, as it involves writing without conscious control. Words flow onto the page, revealing thoughts, emotions, and ideas that may be buried in the subconscious. In this state, one might write about vivid dreams, strange landscapes, or personal fears without intending to do so. This technique aligns with Surrealism's goal of accessing the hidden depths of the mind.
3. Surrealism's rejection of conventional logic and reason allowed artists and writers to create works that defied traditional understanding. For example, Salvador Dalí's "The Persistence of Memory" features melting clocks, a surreal and illogical image that challenges viewers' perception of time. This rejection of reason added an element of surprise and intrigue to Surrealist art.
4. Surrealism's influence on contemporary art and culture is significant. It has inspired artists, writers, filmmakers, and even fashion designers to explore the irrational, subconscious, and dreamlike aspects of human creativity. Surrealist principles have been adapted and incorporated into various art forms, contributing to a rich and enduring artistic legacy.

