

Script

An understanding of the liberal arts leads to improved critical thinking, problem-solving, reflection, ethical decision-making, civic engagement and communication, but why? The liberal arts are divided into disciplines that provide unique perspectives on social issues and everyday life. How can we apply these liberal arts perspectives?

Let's examine the color green through the lens of various liberal arts perspectives:

- Environmental science combines various sciences to consider sustainability. Green, historically, has been the color of environmentalism, activism built on environmental science. Now, there is a next generation environmental movement called the Bright Green Movement that centers itself on technology and human innovation to resolve environmental issues identified by science.
- Political science is a discipline devoted to the study of politics and government. In our current world, green is important to global politics, as political parties on all continents that are in favor of responding to climate

change, use green as their party or policy color (e.g., The Green New Deal; The Kenyan Green Party.)

- Theology considers the nature of the divine and religious belief. The color green has significance in religions across the globe with meanings of hope, freedom, new life and restitution.
- Economics is the study of wealth, scarcity, incentives and resource decision-making. How does that connect to the color green? There is a sub-field of economics called "Green Economics" that focuses on sustainability, creativity and unleashing human potential rather than a focus on wealth accumulation.
- Music, as a liberal arts discipline, considers the history, theory and social importance of the use of sound and silence to create beauty and meaning. There are endless songs that feature the color green via lyrics, and some that intend to sound green:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4BCOsNAYfI>
- Ethics is a branch of philosophy that considers principles of morality. In analyzing the color green, we might consider whether it is ethical for a company to use

green labels on products that are not eco-friendly, when studies show that eco-minded consumers often buy products with green labels, as they make an assumption that the product is eco-friendly.

- Language studies provide different cultural perspectives on words and meaning. What languages do you speak? How many ways can you say the color green? How is it different or similar to English? What nuances are there in distinct languages that can't be easily translated into other languages?
- Literature is the study of meaningful groups of words. Poetry is one type of literature. Many poets center on green, some as a sign of life and others as a sign of death. For example,

Excerpt from *Somnambulist Ballad*
by Federico García Lorca

Green, how I need you now, green.
Green the breeze. The branches green.
The boat far out at sea.
The pony in the high sierra.
With shadows on her waistband.
She dreams on her veranda.
Green her skin and her hair green.

With eyes of icy silver.

Green, how I need you now, green.

https://www.jstor.org/stable/20602706?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

<https://laene.blog/2017/08/02/somnambulist-ballad/>

- **And, Gwendolyn Brooks: "To the Young Who Want to Die"**

Graves grow no green that you can use. Remember, green's your color. You are Spring.

- **Math is the study of numbers, shapes, patterns, and change. We can use math to create the digital color green by using a hexadecimal code. A hex code indicates digitally how much of yellow and blue to include in the color green. The hex code for green is: #33FF39**
- **Art is the study of human creativity. Artists, historically and currently, have used green as a central feature to tell the story of their paintings. For example:**

By considering different perspectives, like environmental science, political science, theology, economics, music, ethics, language, literature, math and art, we can better understand a simple concept like the color green. Imagine how these perspectives can be used to address social justice

issues or to inform healthcare delivery. Being purposeful about thinking from the perspective of the liberal arts can lead to an enriched life with our families, our communities, our workplace and our world.