Analyzing Visual Media

Student Art Evaluation

- Location: Media Center, next to windows overlooking tennis courts
- Title: The Thinker
- Artist: Ben Stevens, class of '99



Analysis

- Aggressive lines
- Distraught look of figure
- Blue-green palette
- Hand covering face as if in shock or disbelief
- Stressful tone conveyed through posture and jaggedness of lines
- "The Thinker" is a famous title of another sculpture



Thesis

 The Thinker by Ben Stevens redefines Rodin's The Thinker in a few different ways. Placing a "thinker" in a modern context, Stevens argues that the thinking of modern man is much colder and lonelier than before. The movement of the hand from Rodin's figure's chin to Stevens' figure's forehead emphasizes the increased stress of modern thought. The consistent use of aggressive lines adds to the agitation and stress of the figure. Lines from the figure's eyes draw the eye down, again emphasizing the downward-looking, somber thought of modern man. The colors underscore the detached tone of the piece, using muted tones broken by jagged dark lines.