

## DRAWING

### Expressions

Vincent van Gogh was a Dutch painter who lived from 1853-1890. He was known for **bold colors** and **swirling brushstrokes**. He was also a man who underwent serious emotional turmoil. He lived in poverty and died a very sad death at the age of 37. Although he is now considered one of the world's greatest painters, his work as a painter was not given much value while he was alive. It has been only since his death that the value of his work has been fully recognized. In 1990 one of his portraits of Dr. Gachet sold at an auction for \$82.5 million.



Van Gogh, *Portrait of Doctor Paul Gachet*, 1890,  
Private Collection, USA

Have you ever noticed that you seem to have more energy when you are happy and less energy when you are sad? When you are sad, you may feel as though you haven't enough strength to support your own body weight. **If you want to show that someone is sad, you can create the expression of sadness by causing the body to slouch or lean on something.**

In this portrait of his doctor, van Gogh has painted the figure leaning to one side as well as resting his weight on the table's edge. What might this expression tell us about him? Could there be another reason someone may slouch besides being sad?