IMPORTANT TIPS FROM ART HISTORY DEPARTMENT

4 (or 5) artists/designers is best for research, but should then select 3 because otherwise will be too superficial in content/comments. Do not choose random artists/designers in your selection of works. You have been encouraged to look wider to allow you to explain why you have made your final picks.

So, in terms of linking paragraphs, I'd use discourse markers (that all will have done in GCSE English!) such as:

However,

On the other hand,

Similarly,

Notwithstanding,

Likewise,

etc

Possible paragraph structure:

1. Sentence giving basic bibliography (life dates, style, nationality, era, genre etc) which is made relevant by the student explaining why this artist appeals to them.

2. Selection of a key work and exploration (details and evaluation) of the formal features.

3. Evaluation of how/who/what has influenced this work/artist in terms of context (both political, social and artistically)

4. Evaluation of how/why this artist/work has influenced/improved/shaped/affected the student's own work. Support this with a photograph of the student's work in progress alongside that of the influencing work.

Then subsequent paragraphs can follow the same structure, but should be preceded by an initial sentence which explains how a student found the new artist/work. What was the link to the previous? What were they looking for? More of the same kind of influence (subject matter/use of materials/technique etc) or were they deliberately looking for someone/a work which linked to their portfolio in a different way?

Don't forget:

Title is important - not My artist study or other lame and boring beginnings

Introduction - explains the main approach/search of the student and what they are looking for.

Conclusion - evaluates what work/artist has been most important and where they would go next if they had more time (again the 4th artist could be useful here as a signpost for reflection/further work that is needed at the top end.)

Bibliography: NOT all websites, and avoid Wikipedia (drop to the bottom of the page and take the actual source from the Wikipedia bibliography)