

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF AN ARTWORK

Here are some tips to assist you when examining or discussing artwork.

DESCRIBE (What do I see?)	ANALYZE (How is the work organized?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *landscape, portrait, people, still life, animals, religious, historic *foreground/background *time of day, season *place/setting *inside/outside *abstract/realistic *horizontal/vertical *old v. modern/ historic v. contemporary *action- what is going on? *story? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *line- strong, dominant, thin, directional, broken, outline, structural, curved *color and value- warm, cool, light, dark, solid, transparent, bright, dull, monochromatic, realistic or abstract *texture- smooth, rough, coarse, soft *space- perspective, foreground, middleground, background, point of view *form- 2D v. 3D, sculptural or flat *contrast- emphasis, rhythm, pattern, movement, balance, unity, repetition *How do the elements and principles of design work together? *How does the artist use the elements/principles to get your attention? *composition
INTERPRET (What is happening?)	JUDGE (What do I think about the artwork?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The artwork is about.... *It makes me think about... *The artist is saying... *Mood and feeling, calm, violent, sad, joyful, angry, hopeful, scared, etc. *The artist wants you to see... *The artist wants you to think about... *The artwork reminds me of... *I want to know... *If I could ask the artist a question, I would ask... *symbols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The best part of the work is... *The strengths of the work are... *The weaknesses of the work are... *The artist communicates ideas by... *I learned... *I like_____ because.... *I wouldn't choose to hang this work in my room because.... *Other people should study this work because.... *This work has survived the test of time because.... *Why do people see and understand

<ul style="list-style-type: none">*Metaphors*meaning*context*relationships between all the individual parts of the work	artwork differently?
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