

Critical Thinking

Describe – What do you see?

- Landscape, portrait, people, still life, historic
- Foreground, background
- Time, season, day, night
- Place or setting, inside, outside
- Horizontal, vertical
- Old vs new, or modern, historic vs contemporary
- Action, what is happening, is it a story?

Analyze – How is the work organized?

- Line: Strong, thin, directional, broken, structural
- Color, Value: Warm, cool, light, dark, bright, dull, realistic, abstract
- Texture: Smooth, rough, soft, coarse
- Shape, Form: 2D, 3D, flat, sculptural
- Contrast, focal point, movement, rhythm, pattern.
- How do the elements and principles of art work together?
- How does the artist use the elements & principles get your attention?

Interpret – What is happening?

- The artwork is about ...
- It makes me think about ...
- The artist is saying ...
- Mood and feeling: calm, violent
- The artist wants you to see ...
- The artist wants you to think about ...
- The artwork reminds me of ...
- I see symbols such as ...
- I see metaphors such as ...
- I think they might mean ...

Judgement – What do I think about the work?

- The best part of the work is ...
- The strengths of the work are ...
- The weaknesses are ...
- The artist communicates ideas by ...
- I like the artwork because ...
- I dislike the artwork because ...
- Others should see this work because ...
- Why do different people see and understand work differently?