**How to write an art critique**

**Describe:**

**Begin by stating the title of piece, name of the artist and where and when the piece was created.**

Describe what you see in the piece. What is seen in the piece of art? Describe it as if you are telling someone who cannot see what it looks like. Make sure to include a description of the basic composition. Explain the materials used. Describe the “things” in the piece. Explain how the price was made. Give a summary of the basic visual quality of the work. Are there colors? How do those colors appear? Is the piece black and white? Does it feel realistic or cartoony?

**Analyze:**

**Address the technical components.** Try to be as objective as possible when covering the technical elements of a photograph.

**Composition:** What compositional choices does the artist make? How does that affect the overall feel of the piece. Does it feel complete? Does it feel empty? crowded? unbalanced? Etc.

**Analyze how the artist uses the elements of art and principles of design.**  Make sure to explain how each individual element and principle affects the feeling of the work as well as the visual quality. For example: “The use of bold, black  **contour lines** makes the overall feel of the piece cartoon like.”

**Interprete:**

What could the possible meaning of this piece of art be be? Back up your interpretation with at least 3 things from the work that help you come to this conclusion.

**Judgement:**

Does the piece of art work or not work. What areas did you find successful in the piece? What are some areas that may have distracted from the overall success of the work of art? What are some suggestions you have for the artist to improve distracting parts of the piece of art?

**Describe**

1. What is the title of the piece?
2. When and by who was the piece created?
3. What materials were used to make the piece of art?
4. What is the subject matter? What do you “see” in the artwork. Describe the piece as though you are telling someone EXACTLY what it looks like who can’t see the work

**Analyze**

1. **Explain howe the artist used the following elements of art and principles of design**
   1. Shapes:
      1. How does the use of shapes affect the overall feel of the piece?
   2. **Space**
      1. How does the use of space affect the overall feel of the piece?
   3. Form
      1. How does the use of form affect the overall feel of the piece?
   4. Color
      1. How does the use of color affect the overall feel of the piece?
   5. Line
      1. How does the use of line affect the overall feel of the piece?
   6. Value
      1. How does the use of value affect the overall feel of the piece?
   7. Texture
      1. How does the use of texture affect the overall feel of the piece?
   8. Emphasis
      1. How does the use of emphasis affect the overall feel of the piece?
   9. Balance
      1. How does the use of Balance affect the overall feel of the piece?
   10. Rhythm and Movement
       1. How does the use of rhythm and movement affect the overall feel of the piece?
   11. Contrast
       1. How does the use of contrast affect the overall feel of the piece?
   12. Pattern
       1. How does the use of pattern affect the overall feel of the piece?
   13. Unity
       1. How does the use of unity affect the overall feel of the piece?

**Interpretation**

1. What could the artwork be about?
   1. Give 1 reason you think the piece has this meaning
   2. Give another reason you think it could have this meaning
   3. Give another reason the work has this meaning

**Judgement:**

1. Does this piece work?
   1. What are some successful parts in the piece?
2. What areas do not work in the artwork?
3. What specific suggestions would you give to the artist to make the piece stronger?