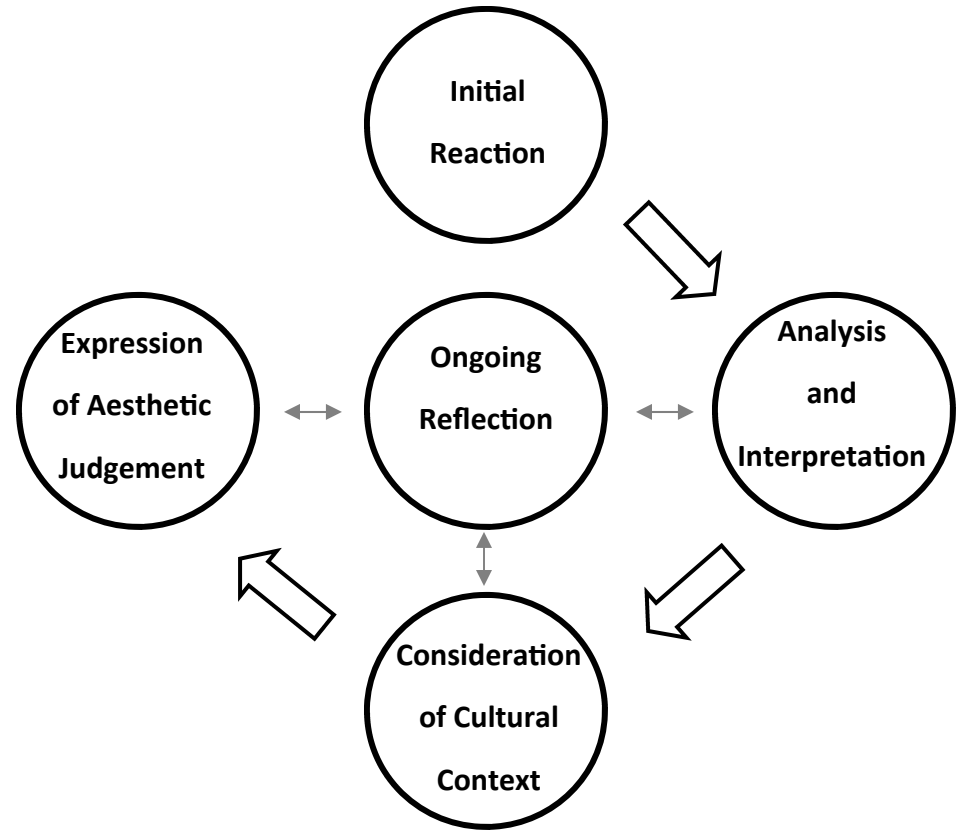


Critical Analysis Process



Student Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

Artist: _____

Name of Artwork: _____

Date of Artwork: _____

Size of Artwork: _____

Medium of Art work: _____

Ongoing Reflection

Reflection occurs throughout the critical analysis process, whether you are examining your own works or the works of others.

1. In what ways do you feel this work is successful? _____

2. In what ways would you change the work to improve it? _____

3. How did the work affect the audience? Was it the way the artist intended? _____

4. How would you alter this work for a different audience, or to send a different message? _____

Initial Reaction

When you see art (of any kind) try to express your initial reaction in words. Use these questions to help you understand what your reaction is and why you reacted the way you did.

1. What is your first impression of this artwork?

2. What does this image remind you of? Is there anything that you recognize?

3. What emotional reaction do you have to this artwork?

4. What puzzles you? What are your questions?

5. Can you make any personal connections with this artwork? _____

6. What would you ask the artist/designer?

Analysis and Interpretation

Try to figure out what the artist has done to achieve certain effects.
Refer back to your initial reactions.

1. What is the medium, technique and/or process?

(EXAMPLES— paint: acrylic , oil, watercolour; sculpture: soapstone, marble, wood;
photography: film, digital, Photoshop)

2. What elements of design are most significant in this work? Use adjectives to describe their particular qualities. (dull colours)

3. What Principles of Design are most significant in this work? _____

4. What do you think is the theme or subject of the work?

(i.e., What is the artist trying to communicate, and why? or, in reflecting on your own work: What did you intend to communicate, and why?)

Expression of Aesthetic Judgement

Compare your perception of the art (after reflection and analysis) to your initial reaction. Make connections to other works of art you have seen. Consider the effectiveness of aspects of the work. And reflect on whether you have learned anything that you can apply to their own work.

1. How effectively does the artist select and combine elements to achieve an intended effect in this work? (i.e., What works and what doesn't work, and why? _____

2. Has your point of view shifted from your initial reaction? If so, how has it changed? Why? _____

3. In what ways does the artist evoke joy, sadness, or other emotions in this work? _____

Consideration of Cultural Context

Consider how aspects of an artist's life can have a bearing on his or her works and on the interpretation of those works.

1. What social, political, and historical events may have influenced the artist in this work? (think about inventions/wars)

2. What cultural movements, events, or traditions or other works in the arts may have influenced the artist?

What events in the artist's life may have affected the creation of the work? _____

To extend your understanding of works of art in their context, you may also research the following:

- the similarities and differences between specific works in the past and present
- the way in which a work in the arts represents the perspective of individuals within a specific cultural group
- examples of other works created in the same period
- the expectations and artistic preferences of audiences at the time the work was created
- the initial reception of the work by critics
- the responsibility of an audience, including basic points of audience etiquette and the individual's responsibility to acknowledge any personal biases that may influence his or her response to a work (e.g., cultural biases or past experiences with the arts)

5. Why do you think the artist created this work?

6. What message or meaning do you think the work conveys?

7. What do you feel is the artist's view of the world?

8. How does this view match or contrast with your own view of the world? Explain.

Analysis and Interpretation

This list will help you discuss the artist's use of the Elements and Principles of Design.

Elements of Design:

Texture—actual or simulated

Shape—organic & geometric

Form—how all the pieces work together

Space—3D, positive and negative

Line—implied (edge of desk) or any type of drawn line

Colour—red, yellow...

Value—light and dark

Principles of Design

Balance (Symmetrical-same, Asymmetrical-different, Radial-round)

Emphasis (something “jumps” out at you)

Rhythm—Repetition (objects/shapes that occur again & again)

Variety (mix it up!)

Movement (how your eye moves)

Pattern (like wallpaper)

Proportion (a huge mouse against a tiny elephant)

Unity—Harmony (everything working together)

Adjectives that can help you describe the Elements of Design.

Texture

tacky, simulated, sandy, soft, furry, smooth, prickly, bumpy, rough, shiny, sticky, wet, velvety, corrugated, leathery

Shape/Form

distorted geometric organic, linear, flat, free form, biomorphic, massive, closed, open, light, heavy

Space

flat, deep, negative, positive, ambiguous, open, shallow, positive

Line

broken, freehand, meandering, curved, straight, fuzzy, interrupted, ruled, short, diagonal, horizontal, vertical, thin, thick, controlled, blurred, wide

Colour

cool, warm, brash, clear, primary, secondary, triadic, complementary, tertiary, calm, pale, bright, multicoloured, exciting, grayed, dull, polychrome, greyish, muted, subdued, heavy, opaque, translucent

Value

light, dark, bright, dull, dynamic, grey