

Advanced Level Artwork Critique Form:

Analyzing Art for Formal Elements, Function, Context, and Own Art Making Practice

1. Clearly state at the top of the page why you are researching this artwork. How does it connect to your thread? Make clear connections to your own art making processes throughout the critique.

2. Collect **Contextual Information on the artist**

- Basic info to collect about the artist
 - Do this work on your IPAD. Use the program: Goodnotes, Pic Collage
 - Include images of the artist
 - Include basic vital information
 - Life highlights in bullet points.
 - Explain trends/styles of the artist-with words and pictures
 - Include a quote
 - Include a map
 - Cite sources

3. Collect **Contextual Information on the artwork**

Artist
Title
Date
Medium
Techniques
Dimensions (inches: h. x w. x d.)
Name of collection (museum?, private?)

4. **Describe** subject matter, themes, imagery, context that the museum gives you:

- What can you understand at first glance? Consider the style and subject matter. You may need to clarify these later in the critique.

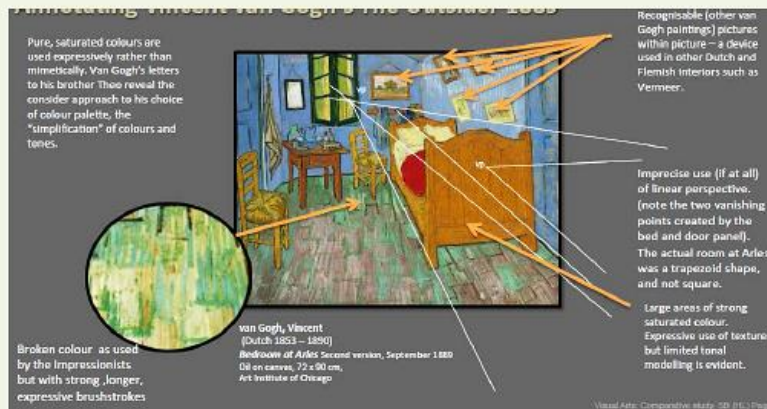
Style: Realistic, Abstract,
Expressive, Non-objective,
Conceptual

SUBJECT MATTER: Look at the
title! Interactions/Narratives,
Symbolic meanings, Icons/
Iconography, Themes, References
to History, Ideology

5. **Analysis of Formal Qualities:** materials, techniques, composition, and elements and principles of design, process
 - Print a picture and annotate it with arrows.

Give your "**Analysis.**" This is where you use your knowledge of the elements and principles of art. How did the artist organize the artwork using the elements and principles? What techniques are used with the materials? Lastly, consider the postmodern perspective; are their postmodern principles used?

ELEMENTS OF DESIGN CHOSEN TO EMPHASIZE:				PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN CHOSEN TO EMPHASIZE:			
Line	Shape	Space	Color	Balance	Movement	Unity	
Form	Texture	Value		Rhythm	Pattern	Emphasis	Contrast
POSTMODERN PRINCIPLES:							
Appropriation	Juxtaposition	Recontextualization	Layering	Interaction of Text & Image	Hybridity	Gazing	Representin'



6. **Interpret – meaning and function/purpose** – what is the intended meaning of the work? What is the intended function of the work?

- * Is the meaning of the work intended to be flexible? Has the meaning/function of the work changed over time? (like Mona Lisa).
- *How does the use of materials, techniques, and composition help to communicate its meaning?

*Some different functions that art can have (remember, a single artwork can have more than one!)

- Expressive function – expresses the artists' feelings or identity
- Descriptive function – records the likeness of a place or person or other subject.
- Conceptual function –the idea or concept behind the work is more important than the object
- Practical function-has a practical use, such as clothing, vessels, furniture, a building
- Religious function – tells a religious story or is an object of devotion.
- Historical narrative function- tells a story of an event in history
- Commemorative function – made to honor someone (like a statue of a famous person)
- Political function- serves a political purpose, such as propaganda.
- Symbolic function – symbolizes certain beliefs or ideas without representing them.
- Decorative Function- used to adorn the body, a room, a building etc.
- Ritual function – used as part of a ritual or ceremony, or has magical powers.
- Shock function – intended to shock or upset the viewer
- Critique – intended to critique an issue
- Can you think of more?

7. Evaluation of cultural significance

To what extent does the work demonstrate: Informed understanding of the cultural significance of the selected artworks, objects and artifacts within the specific context in which they were created? You should consider the 'story' of the artwork. Where has it traveled and why? Where has it been housed? You should consider the perspective of the audience as well as the historical timeline of the work. See the 'family tree' example further down.

- What are the big ideas of the work?
- What is the aesthetic philosophy? (what movement: Realism, Expressionism, Formalism, Italian Renaissance, etc...)
- during what Era, Movement, or Age was the work created?
- find a direct quote from the artist about the painting (or about art in general)
- what is the journey of the painting over time?
- where is it now? Who owns it?
- why is this work noteworthy?
- How does this work/artist or philosophy connect to others that have come before or after?

Strategies:

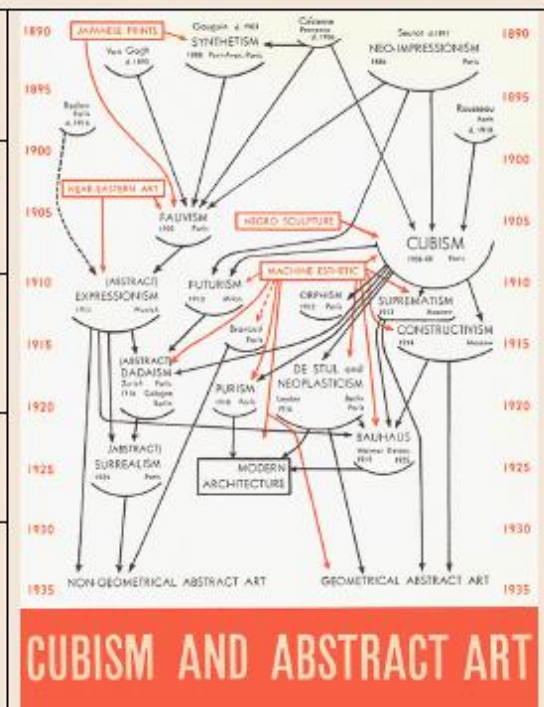
*Provide a quote by an art critic or art historian or magazine write-up.

*Maps help explain exactly what culture. Historical maps will show old political lines.

Common Ways Art Interacts With Culture

<p>Social Significance: How did the work interact with the viewer? How have people viewed the work over time? Was the work created to have social significance or did it gain social significance over time? <i>Example: JR, Banksy, Kruger, Mona Lisa</i></p>
<p>Political Significance: What role have politics played in the existence of the work? Was it made for the purpose of being political? Did politics become important later in its existence? <i>Example: Picasso's Guernica, Banksy</i></p>
<p>Economic Significance: What is the financial story of the work? Was it sold? Did it ever sale for a lot of money? <i>Example: any artwork that has sold for a lot of money- Van Gogh, Picasso, Francis Bacon</i></p>
<p>Environmental Significance: Have events in the natural world had an effect on the art? What role does nature play in the existence of the work? <i>Example: Andy Goldsworthy</i></p>
<p>Art World/Pop Culture Significance: Has the work had a significant role in pop culture? Was it made to critique or celebrate the art world or popular culture? Did it later have a role in pop culture? Has it been referred to by other artists? Has it been written about by art critics or magazines? <i>Example: Warhol, Mr. Brainwash, The Scream (Simpsons), Anime</i></p>
<p>Religious or Spiritual Significance: What is the role of religion or spiritualism? Was the work created for this purpose or did it later take on this role? <i>Example: Michelangelo, Religious Icon Paintings, Indigenous Art</i></p>
<p>Utilitarian: How does the work serve a functional purpose? How has it been used over time? <i>Example: Cathedral, Architecture, Japanese Tea Bowls</i></p>

Create a Historical Timeframe Graphic



8. Judge and Connect: make connections to own art-making practice – make a creative response

To what extent does the work: Analyze and reflect on the outcomes of the investigation, and how has it influenced the student's own development as an artist, identifying connections between one or more of the selected works and the student's own art-making processes and practices?

*Make a sketch for how you can use this work of art to inspire future works. Address materials, technique, composition, and function