

Visual Arts- Critique Guidelines

The following guidelines are intended to help each artist think carefully about the critique process and to support artists in the refinement of the learned skill of 'critique'. Our instincts often allow our biases to take over. It is important to give thoughtful, unbiased, constructive feedback that will cause each other to think about our work in new ways and ultimately to grow as visual artists.

When giving critique remember:

- 1. Be honest.** Remember that we're all here to learn from one another and that open, honest dialogue fosters intellectual development.
- 2. Be respectful.** Remember to respect the feelings of those around you and think before speaking.
- 3. The art is not the person.** It's important to keep in mind that critiques are about the WORK and not about the artist who created the piece.
- 4. Challenge one another.** Just as I ask that you respect the feelings of those around you, a critique is not an open invitation to flattery. Rather, it's an opportunity to ask questions, engage in dialogue, provide positive reinforcement, and challenge the work presented.
- 5. Talk about what's in front.** It's easy to start making "hypothetical" art (i.e. engaging in "what-ifs"). Keep the discussion centered on what the artist has presented, rather than what they COULD have presented.
- 6. Craft and Idea.** Does the craftsmanship of the piece support the concept?
- 7. The language of design.** While it's easy to say "I like this", try to focus your vocabulary on the elements of design (line, shape, color, form, volume, etc) Do the elements work well together? Does the use of line complement the concept behind the piece? Do the materials help to unify the piece? What elements seem disjointed or out of place?

When you are receiving critique remember:

- 1. Do not respond until everyone has commented** unless you are invited to clarify something important that is being discussed.
- 2. Do not explain your intention** (if it works, your intention will be apparent)
- 3. Do ask for specific feedback** you would like
- 4. Ask for clarification** if you do not understand what someone has communicated about your work
- 5. Do not take offense** - remember 'the art is not the person' and you will not grow if you do not get good constructive criticism.

How can we use critique as an assessment tool to continually push towards improving?

Practice using the following rubric to assess your own work and give thoughtful feedback to your peers

BREADTH

6	EXCELLENT	AMBITIOUS	RISK-TAKING	INVENTIVE
5	STRONG	CONFIDENT	COMPLEX	DIVERSE
4	GOOD	CLEAR EFFORT	EMERGING	SOME VISUAL INTEREST
3	MODERATE	TENTATIVE	INCONSISTENT	OBVIOUS SOLUTIONS
2	WEAK	LITTLE ENGAGEMENT	MINIMAL	SIMPLISTIC
1	POOR	NO EFFORT	CONFUSED	TRITE/COPIED

