**Art Critique**

1. **Describe what you see.** This is the objective portion of the art critique. It involves a basic description – nothing more. It should include things like:

* Artist’s name
* Title of work
* Type of artwork (portrait, sculpture, landscape, etc.)
* Subject of the painting (scene)
* Objects in the painting
* First impression – note the characteristics of the artwork that first jump out at you
* Sensory qualities – identify the overall mood and visual effect

1. **Analyze the artwork.** Describe how certain elements were utilized by the artist to create the overall impression of the piece. Elements you might analyze when you critique artwork include:

* Color
* Shapes, forms, and lines
* Texture
* Light and shadow
* Principles of Art: Focal point, balance, rhythm, etc.
* How each of those elements contributes to the mood and meaning of the artwork

1. **Interpret** **the artwork.** This part of the critique is more subjective than the first two steps, as you use your analysis of these elements of the piece of art to apply your own ideas as to the artist’s intended purpose for the artwork. Consider these things when formulating your interpretation:

* Describe what you think the artist is trying to say through the work of art
* Address the feeling conveyed by the artwork. Describe what the artwork means to you, and why

1. **Evaluate** **the artwork.** This is the summation of the art criticism. Use your analysis and interpretation (Steps 2 and 3) to draw conclusions and reach judgments about the artwork. Consider these types of items for your evaluation:

* Explain where you feel the artwork has strong value and where you think it falls short
* How does it compare to similar works?