

Analyzing Art

With Questions Using Higher-Order Cognitive Skills



Describe

What do you see in this work of art? Name the objects, people, and setting depicted.

List adjectives that describe what you see.

Locate and identify the colors, lines, shapes, and textures within the work of art.

Determine the materials and/or tools used to create the work of art.

Can you find the artist's mark or signature? What do you know about this artist?

How would you describe this work of art to a person who could not see it?

Analyze

What art elements (color, line, shape, or texture) are emphasized? Do you notice a repetition of any of these elements?

Does the artist achieve a sense of variety, unity, balance, and/or rhythm? Which elements contribute to the overall impact of the work?

Compare what you see in the foreground with what you see in the background.

Investigate the clues the artist has given you to find the most important part of this artwork. What do you see as the focal point of the work? What clues led you to that conclusion?

Imagine you have the opportunity to interview the artist. What questions would you ask about this work of art?

Interpret

What can you conclude about the mood, characters, and setting?

Can you make an inference about what could be happening in this work of art and predict what might happen next?

Imagine you are in this work of art. Use your senses to list what you would see, hear, smell, taste, or touch.

Can you hypothesize what would happen if this work of art came to life?

What does the work of art reveal about the artist and the culture in which it was made?

Summarize the overall theme or main idea.

What do you think was the intended purpose for this work of art? Was it meant to hang in a gallery, to be seen in a specific setting, or to be used in everyday life?

Create a new title for this work of art. Why did you make that choice?

Evaluate

What do you think is important, valuable, and/or interesting about this work of art? Justify your answer.

What might other teachers, family members, or friends say about this work of art? Why? Assess your predictions by asking them!

How many hours do you think it took for the artist to complete this work? List the reasons for your estimate.

What grade would you give the artist for this work? Explain.

What do you think is memorable about this work of art?

Would you recommend this work of art to a friend? Why or why not?

Relate

What aspects of your life does this work of art reflect?

Does this work of art contain people, places, or things that could be found in your home or school? Which elements are specific to the time and place in which the work was created?

If you were to design a similar work of art, what aspects or elements would you want to retain? What would you change?

How is this work of art similar to others you've seen? What are some key differences?

Would you give this work of art to a friend? If so, for what occasion?

Assess who might be the buyer or audience for this work of art.

If you were the owner of this work of art, where would you put it?

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