

Analyzing an art work

IB ART RESOURCE

How?

There are many different ways of analyzing an artwork and these will vary greatly according to the type of work, the medium and the culture and time in which it was made. Select and critique an art work that relates to your own area of interest and research. Choose art works that you have seen yourself whenever possible. Use illustrations or comparative/contrasting artworks to support your comments.

Respond to these Questions in your IW

1. Who is the artist, where is he/she from and when was it made?
2. What medium is used? Describe materials used, size and general form.
3. What genre does it belong to? Is it abstract, figurative, fauve, cubist, realist, post-modern, etc.? Do some research and if you still aren't sure you can simply describe what you see.
4. Comment on the *formal* elements of composition, use of line, movement and shapes. Try to use proper art terminology.
5. Describe the use of color or lack of color— what combination of colors (complementary, warm or cool, dark or light) is used, and how this contributes to the mood and tone of the piece.
6. Discuss the *content* of the image: what do you think is being communicated – what do you imagine the piece is about, are there symbols which might stand for other meanings?
7. Discuss the *cultural context* of the piece; how does the culture and time period in which it was created contribute to your understanding of it?
8. Finally, what do you find interesting or inspiring about this art work, what can you learn from it with regards to your own work?