

Explore **art** with your Students

Looking at art increases your students' visual literacy skills in observation, interpretation, critical thinking and creativity. **Give it a try!**

Explore original artworks with your students at the AGO or use reproduced images of artworks — such as the AGO School Programs poster — in your classroom. Based on the Critical Analysis Process, ask your students the questions below to stimulate their analysis of any visual media.

Initial Reaction

- What is your first impression?
- What captures your attention?
- What does this work bring to mind?
- How does this work make you feel?
- What does this work remind you of?

Description

- What is happening in this work?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What clues has the artist provided to tell you more about the subject?
- What clues tell you when and where this work was made?

Analysis and Interpretation

- How does the work evoke feelings, ideas and images?
- How has the artist achieved this using the elements and principles of design?
- What do you think is the theme or subject of the work? Why?
- What message or meaning do you think the work communicates?
- What do you think is the purpose of this work?

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Consideration of Cultural Context

- When and where was the work created?
- What was happening during that time? Socially? Historically? Politically?
- How were art and artists perceived? What role did art play in society?
- What was happening in the artist's life when the work was created?
- Whose voices do we hear? Whose voices do we not hear?

Expression of an Informed Point of View

- Has your point of view changed from your initial reaction? How and why?
- What works and what doesn't work for you? Why?
- How would you change this work if given the opportunity? Why?
- How does the artist's view of the world compare with your own?
- How effective are the artist's choices in communicating his/her intended message?

Get Creative!

These activities help bring your students' new visual literacy skills to life.

- What title would you give this work? Why?
- What would the work say if it could talk? Act out a conversation you might have with the work.
- What song, style of music or sound comes to mind when you look at the work? Create a soundscape.
- What do you think happened before and after the moment captured in the work? Create a tableau.
- Create your own artwork inspired by what you have discovered. What form will it take?
What materials will you use? What idea will your work communicate?

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