A Critique

*is an oral or written discussion strategy used to analyze, describe, and interpret works of art. Critiques help students hone their persuasive oral and writing, information-gathering, and justification skills.*

**Critiques are best presented using the 4 paragraph structure seen below.**

# Description

Describe the work without using value words such as "beautiful" or "ugly.” Provide ONLY the facts:

* What is the written description on the label or in the program about the work?
* What is the title and who is (are) the artist(s)?
* When and where was the work created?
* Describe the elements of the work (i.e., line movement, light, space).
* Describe the technical qualities of the work (i.e., tools, materials).
* Describe the subject matter. Are there recognizable images?

# Analysis

Describe how the work is organized as a complete composition:

* How the work is organized (i.e. principles of art)? Please write about at least 3-5 of these.
* Identify some of the points of emphasis in the work (i.e. focal point and how the artist established this focal point).
* You must defend all your arguments here!

# Interpretation

Describe what you think the work means and how it makes you feel:

* Describe the expressive qualities you find in the work. What expressive language would you use to describe the qualities (i.e., tragic, ethereal, dreamlike, funny…)?
* Does the work remind you of other things you have experienced (i.e., analogy or metaphor)?
* How does the work relate to other ideas or events in the world and/or in your other studies? What do you think is significant about where/how the work is presented?

# Judgment or Evaluation

Present your opinion of the work's success or failure:

* What qualities of the work make you feel it is a success or failure?
* Compare it with similar works that you think are good or bad.
* What criteria can you list to help others judge this work?
* How original is the work? Why do you feel this work is original or not original?