

## **First Analysis and Criticism**

The steps below may be used for group discussion or individual written work.

Before beginning the steps, take two minutes to study the artwork. Look at all the details and subject matter. After studying the artwork in silence, follow these steps:

### **Describe:**

Be specific and descriptive. List only the facts about the objects in the painting or sculpture.

- What things are in the artwork?
- What is happening?
- List what you see (people, animals, clothing, environment, objects, etc.).

### **Analyze:**

- How are the elements of art – line, shape, form, texture, space, and value used?
- How are the principles of design – unity, pattern, rhythm, variety, balance, emphasis, and proportion used?

### **Interpretation:**

Make initial, reasonable inferences.

- What do you think is happening in the artwork?
- Who is doing what?
- What do you think the artist is trying to say to the viewer?

### **Evaluate:**

Express your opinion.

- What do you think about the artwork?
- Is it important?
- How does it help you understand the past?
- Do you like it? Why or why not?

## **Other Activities for Visual Art Analysis and Critique**

Developing the technique of art analysis provides students with the ability to organize visual information and express themselves verbally. The Kennedy Center's ARTSEGE resource offers helpful instruction and activities on analysis and critique:

[Formal Visual Analysis: The Elements & Principles of Composition](#)  
[Teaching Students to Critique](#)  
[Art Critiques Made Easy](#)