

Drawing 2 & 3 FORMAL ANALYSIS

What is the Assignment?

Subject Matter Requirements

In this project, we will be analyzing a work of art and forming an interpretation and judgment of it by writing a “FORMAL ANALYSIS” which is a type of paper specific to art.

Context

The course you are in right now pertains to a specific media (drawing, painting, 3-D, etc.) You will be analyzing a work in this media.

Organization/ Form

Here is the Basic Organization for a Formal Analysis:

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1. **Introduction:** the facts about the artwork and a basic description of what you see.
 2. **Body:** Detail description of what you see, relating it to the Elements and Principles of Art. Will consist of 2-3 paragraphs. You are like a tour guide. Find a starting point to write about (perhaps the focal point) and then help the reader “travel” throughout the artwork as you vividly describe what you see point out how the artist used the elements and principles.
 3. **Closing:**
 1. Interpretation: Overall, what are some possibilities for what the piece means? (NOT your opinion... use visual clues to support theories)
 2. Judgment: What are the strengths and/ or weaknesses of the piece according to the elements and principles? Make sure you have reasons behind your statements.

(No Specific Length for the Paper... think quality over quantity)

Purpose or aim

By learning to thoroughly evaluate the work of others you will:

- Have some understanding of the formal qualities of your own artwork (what makes your painting or drawing work?)
- Have some understanding of how viewers may interpret the message of works of art differently.
- Be able to form your own judgment of a work of art (AESTHETICS)

Audience

You are writing a formal paper which should communicate to other artists and anyone else wishing to further understand a work of art (and has understanding of art vocabulary).

Speaker’s role or point of view

During the Introduction and Body, you will NOT use “I” – you are describing VISUAL details of the piece and relating them to the Elements and Principles of Art.

During the Judgment section of the writing, you may use “I” -- this is the only part where your opinion is shown

Style/ Voice

This is the type of writing completed in college level art history courses. This writing shows understanding of art vocabulary, use of elements and principles of art, and content of a work of art.