

Secrets & Tips for Writing About ART!

NO "You" or "I"
You might use "I" in your judgement of the art, but it is avoidable if you try!

Make Sentences Interesting

NO: The texture is...
YES: Texture, a dominant element of the piece, is...
YES: As a key element of the work, texture...

What to Call the Art:

piece
work
artwork
drawing
rendering
painting
sculpture
digital art

NEVER USE THIS TYPE OF WORD!!!

incredible
fantastic
amazing
brilliant
etc...

Title of the Artwork:

Italicize or use quotations. Choose one or the other and use consistently.
"Starry Night" OR *Starry Night*

Ways to Refer to a Part or Area:

in this passage
this element
this feature
in this section
this portion

Always write **WHY** the Focal Point is the focal point.

NO Absolutes!

"Van Gogh will forever be known in the artwork as an artist who caused his viewers to pause and think upon seeing his work."

Remember you are **NOT** a professional art critic so don't make such huge statements.

Always integrate as many **Elements and Principles** as you can!

If we talked about it, it should probably be mentioned in your paper.

Interpretation/ Judgement

Ways to NOT use "I"

Van Gogh's use of color **seems** to evoke feelings of....

The wilted flowers **suggest** [this feeling or thought]

Van Gogh's use of dark blue analogous tones may cause **the viewer** to sense a feeling of despair.

Use the artist's name:

Van Gogh utilizes line in...
Van Gogh suggests a feeling of misery with his imagery of...

Remember your reader is already familiar with art terms. You do not need to define them, only explain how they are used in the specific artwork.

Use Descriptive Words!!!!

What do you see???

These are not art terms, they are words that help use visualize the parts of the artwork: bold, muted, dramatic, angular, elongated...