

# Unit 04: Formal Critique of an Image

Content Area: **Fine Arts**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**  
Length: **1-2 Weeks & ongoing**  
Status: **Published**

## Brief Summary of Unit

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Criticism is an integral part of art making and viewing. Students will be introduced to the structure of art criticism. Describing artworks in terms of elements and principles of design, how the elements work together in the overall composition, any intended meaning through visual metaphor and whether or not the artwork is successful based on the elements.

## Transfer

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- • Critique images they encounter everyday on social media and news outlets.
- • Determine the compositional strength of images they encounter daily.
- • Extrapolate the message and meaning in images within society.

## Essential Questions

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- • How does the Rule of Thirds contribute to successful photographic composition?
- • How does understanding the elements and principles of design help when critiquing a work of art?
- • What are the key terms related to a critique?
- • What factors influence artists' works?
- • What is the difference between a critique and a criticism?
- • What is the purpose of a critique?

## Essential Understandings

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- • The photographer can use information gained in a critique to clarify ideas and discover new insights into their work.
- • The relationship between the elements and principals of design vary from composition to composition.
- • The Rule of Thirds is unique in its application to photographic compositions.

## Students Will Know

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- • How to talk about their work and the work of others during a critique.
- • That a variety of specific factors and events have influenced artists' work throughout time.

- • The difference between critique and criticism.
- • The elements and principles of design.
- • The key terms related to a critique.

## **Students Will Be Skilled At**

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- • Analyzing a work of art.
- • Expressing their observations and aesthetic response both orally and in writing.
- • Responding to works of art aesthetically as well as critically.

## **Evidence/Performance Tasks**

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- • Brainstorm list of photographic terminology used in critique. (pre-assessment)
- • Critique photographic work of fellow classmates in a positive and constructive manner.
- • Participate in group critique of selected artworks and class discussions.
- • Students will respond to writing prompts related to the completed photographic works that will be critiqued in class. (ongoing throughout the year)

## **Learning Plan**

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- • All writing prompts will be submitted for evaluation with completed photographic work.
- • Brainstorm list of terms used when critiquing photographic works of art.
- • Class discussion: "What is the value of critiquing photographic works of art?"
- • Critique session will occur at the end of each photographic assignment.
- • New terms will be added to list after group discussion.
- • Preview the essential questions and connect to learning throughout the unit.
- • Referencing list of terms students will individually write critique of selected contemporary art work.
- • Students will share findings with class during teacher led discussion.

## **Materials**

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- Bulletin board
- Photographic magazines as image resources
- PowerPoint
- Smartboard, projector and computer
- Student work
- Textbook: The Visual Experience, Jack Hobbs and Richard Salome, Davis Publications, Inc., Worcester, Massachusetts, 1995.

## **Suggested Strategies for Modifications**

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- Handouts structuring critique format.
- Hands on activities to support unit objectives.
- Individualized instruction.
- Peer critique of presentations.
- Visual Aids and writing samples.