Unit 1: Critique

Content Area: **Fine Arts**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **2 Days**
Status: **Published**

Brief Summary of Unit

Unit 1: Critique

The critique is integral in the success of the artist and his endeavors. Students will be made aware of the elements and principles of design, composition, analyzing composition, how they relate and make for successful artistic endeavors.

Revision Date: July 2025 - Samantha Berk.

Essential Questions

- • How does the critique aid in completing a successful piece of art?
- How do critiques prompt collaboration and class culture?
- How do critiques support both self and peer reflective practices?
- What are the elements of art and principles of design and how do they help artists create meaningful art pieces?
- What is a critique?

Essential Understandings

- A critique is an evaluation or analysis of a piece of work, often offering feedback or suggestions.
- Critiques help artists improve their work by providing constructive feedback, allowing for revisions and refinement.
- The elements of art include line, shape, form, space, color, value, and texture, while the principles of design are balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm, and unity, all of which guide artists in creating visually cohesive and expressive pieces.
- Critiques encourage both self-reflection and peer reflection, allowing individuals to gain insights into their own work and others' perspectives.
- Critiques foster collaboration by encouraging discussion, sharing ideas, and contributing to the development of a collective artistic vision and class culture.

- • it is important to understand the elements/principles of design.

- the critique aids the artist in completing a successful piece of art.
- the critique helps the artist to see his/her creation.
- there is more involved in the critique process than, "I like it."

Students Will Know

- elements and principles of design and how they translate to the critique.
- how to analyze a composition and its relevance to the critique.
- key terms associated with critique: e.g. composition, balance, color palette or scheme, unity, etc.
- the meaning of composition, the importance and how it relates to the critique.

Evidence/Performance Tasks

Fine Arts students demonstrate differentiated proficiency according to their ability to answer the essential questions through formative and summative assessments. Evidence of progression may be demonstrated in divergent ways through the Artistic Process of Creating, Presenting/Producing, Connecting, and Responding.

Tasks will include:

- Preview essential Questions
- Meaningfully and appropriately participate in class critique and discussions
- Complete class projects including weekly critique assignments
- Complete self-assessment rubrics
- Participate in assessment discussions with teacher
- Complete final exam

- complete class projects including weekly critique assignments.
- complete self-assessment rubrics.
- meaningfully and appropriately participate in class critiques and discussions.
- participate in assessment discussions with teacher.

Learning Plan

- Review and establish class norms for respectful critique (e.g., active listening, constructive language).
- Students present one selected photograph to the class (digitally or printed).
- Classmates respond using structured prompts: “I notice…,” “I wonder…,” “What if…”.
- Encourage use of elements and principles of design vocabulary during discussion.

- Students write a brief personal reflection on the experience of giving and receiving feedback.

Suggested lesson activities:

- Introduction to Critique and Design Vocabulary
    - Introduce the purpose of critique
    - Learn elements and principles of design through discussion and activities
- Analyzing Composition in Photography
    - Study professional photos
    - Identify compositional techniques using critique worksheets
- Peer Feedback Practice: "Glow and Grow"
    - Practice giving and receiving feedback
    - Use structured forms to provide constructive critique on peer photos
- Writing a Formal Critique
    - Write a structured critique of a chosen photo
    - Use art vocabulary and critique writing format (Describe–Analyze–Interpret–Judge)
- Class Critique Circle
    - Present a photo to the class
    - Engage in group critique using "I notice…, I wonder…, What if…" prompts
    - Reflect in writing on feedback received and given

- Preview the essential questions and connect to learning throughout the unit.
- Student and teacher evaluation of critique work (rubric)
- Student critique of student work. On going during all projects, written and oral.
- Student critiques of famous artist's works.
- Teacher demonstration of a good critique.
- Teacher explanation of composition and analyzing of a composition.
- Teacher introduction to critique: handouts of vocabulary, terms and expectations.

Materials

The materials used in this course allow for integration of a variety of instructional, supplemental, and intervention materials that support student learners at all levels in the school and home environments. Associated web content and media sources are infused into the unit as applicable and available.

Digital Cameras, Sketchbook, Various Pencils, Sharpies, Markers, Various Papers, Various Erasers, Mirrors, Blending Sticks, Charcoal, Graphite, Sharpeners, Colored Pencils, Oil Pastel, Chalk Pastels, YouTube Videos, Value Scales, magazines, glue, scissors, Watercolor, Watercolor paper, paint brush, ink, printing materials, chromebooks, ipads, Paint, Color Wheels, Drawing Pen, Rulers

Websites:

- The Art of Critique: Classroom Norms and Strategies
  How to Teach Students to Critique Artwork — practical strategies for respectful critique and teaching art vocabulary
  Website: https://theartofeducation.edu/2020/09/17/how-to-teach-students-to-critique-artwork/

- Elements and Principles of Design
  Clear definitions and examples with visuals to support design vocabulary learning
  Website: https://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/building_lessons/elements_principles_design.pdf

- Photography Composition and Critique Worksheets
  Ready-to-use worksheets for analyzing photo composition and peer critique practice
  Website: https://www.thephotographyteacher.com/photography-critique-worksheets

- Structured Peer Feedback Prompts ("Glow and Grow")
  Positive and constructive feedback framework ideal for peer reviews
  Website: https://www.edutopia.org/article/using-glow-and-grow-feedback-kids

- Writing Art Critiques: Describe-Analyze-Interpret-Judge
  Step-by-step guide to writing formal art critiques using a structured format
  Website: https://art21.org/education/writing-art-critiques/

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

Suggested Strategies for Modifications:

This link includes content specific accommodations and modifications for all populations:

Fine Arts Accommodations & Modifications

- additional time on task
- alternative outcome options
- assessment based on individual development in the area of study
- audio tape of instruction
- cooperative learning groups

- handouts of notes, procedures, processes, diagrams, etc.
- images and visual aids
- one-to-one instruction and assistance
- preferential seating
- reading material modified to student level
- revised techniques, use of tools and media in hands-on activity
- study partners
- testing materials appropriate to student level