

## Art Study with the 5 Common Topics

This sheet should help you to analyze the works of art that you are studying. You don't have to answer every question. These questions are a guide to get you thinking. Some questions might not be relevant.

Artist: \_\_\_\_\_

Art piece: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Medium/Technique: \_\_\_\_\_  
(ex: Sculpture, marble, subtractive with chisel. Painting, oil paint, chiaroscuro. Printmaking, engraving, hatching.)

Location artwork was created: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic	Purpose	Questions	Your response
Definition	To define what can be observed in the artwork	What is the artwork? What is the subject? What do you see? List the things, people, objects, etc. Who/what is depicted? What is happening? What choices did the artist make in color, composition, style, line, texture, etc.?	
Comparison	To compare this artwork to another to identify what makes this piece unique	How is this artwork like another one you are familiar with? Does the style or subject matter remind you of another artwork? How is it different?	

<p>Relationship</p>	<p>To consider:  - the relationship of the artwork to previous pieces  - the influence of this artwork on the art that followed</p>	<p>Was this artwork or movement a reaction to previous movements?</p> <p>Did this piece influence others who followed after?</p> <p>What happened before this piece was made? How did this affect it?</p> <p>How does this piece relate to earlier works of art?</p> <p>Is it similar to earlier works or did it depart from the previous style or technique?</p>	
<p>Circumstance</p>	<p>To consider outside influences on the artist that may have affected the choices made</p>	<p>Under what conditions was this artwork created?</p> <p>Why did the artist make the choice he did?</p> <p>What major world events were going on at that time? How might these events have affected the artwork?</p> <p>What was the worldview or prevailing philosophy at the time?</p> <p>What was happening in the artist's country during the time of the artwork?</p>	
<p>Authority</p>	<p>To consider what art historians and art critics have said about the artwork</p>	<p>What was said about the artwork at the time it was created?</p> <p>Are there documents from the same time period that mention the artwork?</p> <p>What do museum curators say about the artwork now?</p> <p>Who is this authority? Are they credible or trustworthy?</p> <p>What have art historians and art critics said about the artwork?</p>	

Other questions to consider:

Look at the background of the art. Is there anything significant in the background?

What colors are present in the artwork? Are these colors significant? What does the placement on the color wheel tell you about the colors?

What mood is created in the piece of art? (happy, sad, triumphant, humor, serious, etc.)

What is the main focus of this selection? How do you know this is the intended focus?

What is the overall meaning or purpose of this painting?