

Guide for Critical Analysis Process - Formal Critique

The critical analysis process is an approach to critical thinking. (A way of thinking about things)

Use the following questions as a guide to informing your way of thinking about photographs and artworks.

Respond to as many of these as possible in formal paragraph form (under each title) to perform a thorough analysis of an artwork, the photographer, and the context in which it was created.

Initial Reaction

Does this photograph remind you of anything?

What feelings do you have about this photograph?

What puzzles you about this photograph? What are your questions?

What questions would you ask the photographer who took the photo?

Description

What do you see? Can you identify the subject matter?

What equipment did the photographer use?

What is the name of the photographer?

What do you know about this person?

Analysis

Which Elements and Principles of Design are most important in this photograph?
(Elements and Principles of Design)

Where is the focal point? How has this been emphasized?

Where are there areas of contrast or pattern?

Where or how has the artist suggested movement or created rhythm?

How has the feeling of balance been created?

Is there unity?

Describe composition techniques?

Interpretation

What is happening in this photograph?

What makes the photograph important or interesting or challenging?

How does the title of this photograph add to its meaning?

What feelings, thoughts or ideas does this photograph suggest to you?

Does this photograph connect with some aspect of your life?

Cultural Context

When was this photograph taken?

Where was this photograph shot? Two facts about that area/city/location.

Why was the photograph created? What is its impact on the public or the intended audience?

Was the photograph created for a particular individual or group? ----Who is the audience?

What connection might this photograph have with our present society or future society or culture?

Did the artist have a political or social justice reason for creating this artwork?

Informed Point of View

Do you feel this piece of art is successful? Why or why not? Please be specific here - use composition and E. & P. of D. terminology.

What might you change about this photograph and why?

What qualities make this photograph valuable? In price? In society? Personally?

How have your opinion and feelings changed from your initial reaction?

Does your photograph fit the time period or style in which they worked or did they try to change and be different there, too?

What does this photograph inspire you to shoot now?