

ANALYSING AN ARTISTS WORK

When writing about an artists work follow these steps:

INTRODUCTION

Describe the Artist. Consider the following:

Who created the work? When and where was the work made? What themes does the artist/photographer explore & the general style of their work? What art movement are they affiliated with?

CONTEXT

Explain what influenced the Artist to create this artwork/photography. Consider the following:

When was it created? Describe the period/context when/where the work was made? What was happening in the world at the time that might have influenced the artwork? How does the period/context influence the work?

CONTENT/PROCESS

Describe the artwork/ photograph as if you were explaining it to someone who cannot see it. Consider the following:

What is the image about/ what is the subject matter? What can you see (foreground, middle ground, background)? What is the most important thing in the image? Does the title express the theme behind the work? Is it a real event or is it staged?

Explain how the artwork was produced. Consider the following:

What medium/media? What techniques have been used? What size is the artwork?

FORMAL ELEMENTS

Describe what formal elements are in the artwork. Explain why the artist has used them. Explain how these elements convey meaning or create an impact?

LINE, TONE, COLOUR, FORM, SHAPE, TEXTURE, PATTERN, SPACE

MOOD

Describe the mood of the artwork. Consider the following:

Does the work capture a mood, feeling or emotion? How would you describe the mood of the image? How has this been achieved?



Annotating your artwork

WHEN WRITING ABOUT YOUR OWN ARTWORK FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1. WHAT have you done?

In this piece of work I have created a ...

What kind of piece have you created? Is it a drawing, a painting, a sculpture, a mixed media piece, or a print?

2. HOW have you done it?

I have created this piece by...

The materials I have used are...

The technique I have used is... Through working in this way I have learnt how to...

How did you create the piece, what were the key steps in the process?

What formal elements have you shown?

3. WHAT inspired you?

I was inspired by...

I have shown... in the style of...

The artist... has influenced my designs because...

Were you inspired by an artist, an art movement or a theme within your project?

4. WAS it successful?

The successful parts of my work are...

I think using... worked really well because...

This piece could develop further by including...

Consider which techniques have worked well, are the proportions correct? have you shown a range of tones?

5. IS there anything that you would change?

The areas I could change in my work are...

I am particularly pleased with... and I now aim to...

