



**OGDEN MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN ART**
EDUCATION DEPT

Writing Activity – Be a Critic!

Students will be able to write a critique of a work of art observed at the museum. This activity should be implemented in the classroom post-visit. Museum educators can provide access to high-quality images and label information.

An *art critic* is a person who engages in the practice of critique, a strategy used to describe, analyze, interpret, and evaluate works of art. Critiques are helpful to hone persuasive writing, information-gathering, and justification skills.

To write a critique, include the following:

Paragraph 1: Description: Describe the work without using value judgments such as “beautiful” or “ugly”.

- What is the title and who is the artist?
- When and where was the work created?
- Describe the elements observed (color, shape, line, movement, space)
- Describe the technical qualities or the medium used to create the work.
- Describe the subject matter. What is the work all about? Are there recognizable images?

Paragraph 2: Analysis: Describe how the work is organized.

- How is the work planned or constructed?
- Is there a certain point of emphasis?
- If the work has subjects or characters, what are the relationships between or among them?

Paragraph 3: Interpretation: Describe how the work makes you feel.

- What are the emotions, if any, that you feel when you view this work?
- Does the work remind you of other things?
- How does the work relate to other ideas or events in the world and/or in your other studies?

Paragraph 4: Evaluation: Present your subjective opinion on the work orally with the class or even publish online.

- Is this work a success or failure?
- What qualities make it a success or failure?
- Compare with other works you think are good or bad.
- Is the work original? Why or why not?