

Feldman's Model of Art Criticism

From the work of Edmund Burke Feldman, available in many of his books from the late 1960's and early 70's

Description-

Make a list of the visual qualities of the work that are obvious and immediately perceived. Ask students "What do you see in the artwork?" and "What else"? Includes content and subject matter in representational works, includes abstract elements in nonrepresentational pieces.

Analysis-

Focus on the formal aspects of elements of art, principles of design, and other formal considerations: exaggeration, composition etc.
"How does the artist create a center of interest?" How does the use of color impact the painting?"

Interpretation-

Propose ideas for possible meaning based on evidence. Viewers project their emotions/feelings/intentions onto the work. "What do you think it means"? "What was the artist trying to communicate"? "What clues do you see that support your ideas"?

Judgment-

Discuss the overall strengths/success/merit of the work. This step is usually used with mature audiences.