**Critical Method**

**Description:** Just the **FACTS**

**Identify** things about the work that you can see, name, and describe.

 (Record what is there, no opinions or interpretations.)

**Category, Artist, Title, Date, Size, Medium, Process**

 (Found in the credit line or label under the work)

**Subject Matter**

**- Describe** all recognizable images such as people, buildings, hills, etc

 -**Describ**e what living forms are doing.

 -What is near/far, large/small, in front/behind?

-Choose **3 Elements of Art** from list below and explain how the artist used them.

 **-Line** -straight, curved, wavy, jagged, horizontal, diagonal, vertical

**-Color and Value** – warm, cool, bold, muted, dark, light, opaque, transparent? Is there a dominant color? Strong value contrasts?

**-Shapes and Forms** – organic, geometric, representational, abstract?

**-Textures** -simulated or actual, rough, smooth, hairy, sandy, shiny?

 **-Space** - 2-D or 3-D, deep or shallow, spatial techniques?

**for evaluating artwork**

**Analysis:**

**Composition:** How have the subject matter and elements been **organized?**

How do they work together?

Choose **3 Principles of Design** and explain how the artist used

each principle with the **elements of art**.

**Write 3 sentences** to explain how the artist used each principle with an element of art. Give Examples.

**-Balance** – What helps to balance things in the artwork?

 Is the balance symmetrical/asymmetrical, radial?

**-Emphasis** – focal point? Dominance?

Is there some area or element that seems most important?

**-Contrast** - Are there differences in value, in color, in shape, size?

 **-Proportion** – relationships between parts and whole?

 Media and subject? Subject and art elements?

**-Movement** – which devices has the artist used to create it?

 repetition, progression, patterns, rhythm, living forms doing something?

 **Unity and Variety** - how has either been created?

**Interpretation:**

Use the information from your description and analysis to help you identify the ***meaning*** of the work. What ***feeling***is the artist trying to express? What ***ideas*** are being communicated?

**Describe** the expressive mood of the work:

Sad, happy, calm, chaotic, ominous, angry, tense, relaxed

**Explain** what in the work makes you feel that way.

Try using **metaphor** in your description to help communicate visually.

Form a **Hypothesis** about the meaning of the artwork.

**Defend** your hypothesis with specific evidence from the artwork.

**Evaluation:**

Based on your analysis in the first 3 stages, how would you judge the quality or success of the work? Judgment may be affected by the following criteria:

**Craftsmanship** – skilled use of materials and processes.

**Design Quality** – Visual organization of materials and elements in the work.

Consider unity, variety, balance, contrast, movement, emphasis.

**Expressiveness** – How well does the artwork express its subject, idea or theme?

**Personal Response** – Does the artwork provoke a personal response that could be shared with others?

**Originality** – Is the work unique, imaginative?

**Comparison** – How does it compare with similar works?