

Analysing Artworks



Golden Rules:

1. **Always write down the Source: Artist, Title, Date, Size, Medium (materials)**
2. **Use specialist art vocabulary and underline it!**
3. **Research. Find out about it!**
4. **Create a multi-media page, and sketch or recreate part of the work**

Visual properties:

- What kind of artwork is it?
- What techniques have been used?
- How is the work arranged?
- How does the artist use colour, line, shape, form, value, texture, and space to communicate?
- How does the artist use pattern, rhythm, balance, proportion, and harmony to communicate?
- How does the artist use focal point, emphasis, contrast, and unity to communicate?
- Is the work detailed, simplified, stylised, abstract, semi-abstract?

Function:

- Why did the artist create this artwork?
- What is the artwork about?
- How does it make you feel?
- Does the artwork have a religious function or a social role?
- Is it symbolic? Does it have hidden meanings?
- Was the artwork created for houses, museums, galleries, or public spaces?
- What kind of relationship with the public or 'viewer' do you think the artist wants?

Significance (importance):

- What makes the artwork important?
- Is the artwork more conceptual (about ideas) or more visual?
- What is the historical and cultural background to the artwork?
- Does the artist belong to group or movement? What does this tell us?
- Was the artwork revolutionary, using new ideas or techniques?
- How famous is the artwork? (Is the artist more famous than the artwork?)
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the artwork in your opinion?

The link to my work:

- Why did I choose this artwork?
- What techniques can I learn from this artwork?
- What ideas can I get from this artwork?
- How is the artwork connected to my theme?