

## 1. Initial Reaction

What is your first impression?  
What captures your attention?  
What does this work bring to mind?  
How does this work make you feel?  
What does this work remind you of?

## 4. Judge and evaluate

Have your perceptions/feelings towards the piece changed?  
Does the work possess a high technical or conceptual skill?  
Is this an effective piece of work? Why or why not?

## 2. Description

What is happening in the work? What do you see (landscape, portrait, still, historic, etc).  
What is in the foreground/background? What is the setting? Is the work realistic or abstract? Old vs. modern? Historic vs contemporary?  
What is the story?  
What do you see that makes you say that?  
What clues are provided to tell you more about the subject?  
What clues tell you when and where this work was made?  
What do you see, smell, taste, touch and hear when you examine the work using your senses?

## 3. Analysis and Interpretation

What is the composition and how is it framed? (Balance, rule of thirds, golden mean, etc)  
How does the work evoke feelings, ideas and images?  
How has the artist achieved this using the elements and principles of design?  
Line: strong, dominant, thin, horizontal, vertical, diagonal, directional, broken, structural, curved, etc.  
Colour and value: warm, cool, light, dark, solid, transparent, bright, dull, monochromatic, realistic or abstract?  
Texture: smooth, rough, soft, etc.  
Space: perspective, foreground, middle ground, background, point of view  
Contrast: colour, scale, shape, tone, positive/negative space  
Emphasis (how your eye is led).  
Rhythm? Pattern? Movement? Balance? (Symmetrical, asymmetrical, radial)  
Repetition? Motifs?  
What do you think is the topic or subject of the work? Why?  
What message or meaning do you think the work communicates?  
What do you think is the purpose of this work? What does it mean?  
What is the function of the work? (Political, social, religious etc)  
What is the focus in the work and how is it achieved?  
Were technical skills highlighted?

## 5. LIGHT QUALITY

### Light Quality

Light quality describes the source, amount, and direction of lighting in a photograph. Light can come from natural sources, like the sun. It can be altered or created by humans, by using such things as flash bulbs or lamps. It can also be diffused by clouds or by humans putting a veil of cloth over a lamp. The direction of light is also important when looking at photographs: it can come from above, behind, or from one side. Bright, dim, cloudy, directional, diffused, and flash are some terms used to describe lighting.

### Questions to Consider

Determine the source of light (sun, lamp, flash?). What is it?  
From which direction does the light come?  
Does the light come from above the subject? Below it?  
From the side?  
What kind of light do you think this is?  
Is the light harsh with strong shadows, or is it diffused with soft, light shadows?

## 6. TEXTURE

### Texture

Texture is how the surface of an object appears to feel or actually feels to the touch. Texture can be described as rough, smooth, soft, etc. Texture is shown in photographs by the way the light falls on an object and through value changes. The paper on which the photograph is made also determines texture.

### Questions to Consider

What objects in the photograph show textures?  
Describe those textures.  
Is the texture of objects something that you noticed right away or do you notice it after looking for a while? Why?

## 7. FOCUS

### Focus

Focus is the sharpness or clarity of subjects in the photographic image. Soft focus is created when a photographer manipulates the camera to achieve blurry, gentle edges Photographers use the aperture (lens opening) and limitations of the lens to create sharp detail, soft edges, or both; this is called selective focus.

### Questions to Consider

What is in sharp focus?  
Has the photographer kept everything in sharp focus?  
Has the photographer kept only a few things in focus? Explain  
Has the photographer made this image in soft focus?  
What mood or feeling has the photographer created by using soft or sharp focus?

## 8. PROCESS

Explain how the photograph was produced. Consider the following:

Photograph  
Is it digital or film?  
What techniques have been used?  
What settings were used?  
Is the image realistic or has it been manipulated in any way?  
What orientation is the photograph?  
What size is the photograph?

## 10. CONNECTIONS

Compare this work to others that may be of a similar topic or made in a similar way. Review and relate these works to your own project.

Consider the following:  
How does it link to your project?  
What ideas does it give you?  
What have you learnt from analysing this photograph/ photographer?

## 9. MOOD

Describe the mood of the photograph. Consider the following:  
Does the work capture a mood, feeling or emotion?  
How would you describe the mood of the image?  
How has this mood/emotion been achieved?

## 11. COLOUR

Colour  
Artists use colour to achieve many effects. Colour gives viewers a sense of mood, place, and time of year. Colour can also move your eye around a composition and create a sense of space on a flat surface. Some artists achieve very saturated (strong, intense) color in their images, while others intentionally use subdued or muted colours in their subject matter.

Questions to Consider  
Are colour photographs more real looking than black and white photographs? Why or why? What can a photographer achieve with colour that she or he cannot with black and white pictures? How would this scene be different if it were in black and white or in colour? How do you think the photographer has captured wither saturated or muted colour?

## 12. ANGLE OF VIEW

Angle of View  
Angle of view is the position from where the photographer took the picture. A photographer can point the camera from below, above, or straight at an object. In other artistic media, this is often called point of view. When looking for subjects, especially in nature, a photographer often shifts the angle of view to make interesting images. Angle of view can also express emotion or mood. It can give the viewer a sense of being small if looking up, or a sense of being big if looking down.

Questions to Consider  
What is the angle of view for this image? Is the camera angle in the photograph at eye level, lower than eye level (ground level) or above eye level (birds eye view)? Is the viewer looking straight on or from one side or another? How does the photographer's angle of view make you feel about the subject?

## 13. FRAMING/COMPOSITION

Framing/Composition  
Framing is how a photographer carefully presents a subject. Unlike painters, who usually begin with a blank canvas, photographers begin with everything in front of them. Once a subject is found, a photographer decides what to include in the picture frame. The photographer then composes the image to draw a viewer's attention to the subject in a way that best expresses the artist's idea of it.

Questions to Consider  
What do you think the photographer chose to include or exclude from this scene in order to draw your attention to the centre of interest? In what ways did the photographer use framing in this image? What in the photograph helps frame the centre of interest?

## 14. TIMING

Time  
The very essence of photography is the ability to capture a moment, split second in time and history. No other media can be so immediate and historical in its documentation of time and events.

Questions to Consider  
Can you tell what time in history this photograph was taken? What is your opinion and how can you tell this? What time of day was the photograph taken? How can you tell this? How long was the shutter speed? Why do you think this? Did the photographer capture the right moment? Why do you think this? What if the photographer had waited another second or minute what effect would this have on the image?