

The Feldman Model

Describe

Step One: What do I see?

- Is there information on artist, title, date of creation, size and medium?
- Make a **list of all the things you see** in the work
- Recognizable images?
- What's in the foreground, middleground, background?
- Identify the **elements of art** that were used
- Go slowly

Be as objective as possible. State only the facts about the artwork.

Analyze

Step Two: Analysis (How is the work organized?)

- Pay attention to the principles of design and compositional strategies
- How do the elements relate to one another?
- What processes did the artist use and leave visual evidence of?
- How are the elements (line, shape, form, space, color, texture, and value) used to create emphasis, rhythm/movement, pattern, balance, proportion, and unity?

Interpret

Step Three: Interpretation (What is the artist saying?)

- Make **inferences** (educated guesses) about details that aren't stated or obvious
- Explain the mood
- Do there seem to be any symbols or layered meaning?
- Your interpretation can be based on your feelings, but those feelings must be supported by the more objective details you collected in steps one and two.
- Can you defend your theory with evidence?

Judgement

Step Four: Judgment (Is this a successful work of art?)

- Use aesthetic theories for support!
- Imitationalism and literal qualities: Some critics favor the realistic presentation of the artwork. People with this point of view feel that an artwork should imitate life, that it should appear “real” before it can be considered successful.
- Formalism and design qualities: Other critics think that composition is the most important factor in a work of art. This theory stresses the importance of the arrangements of the elements of art.
- Emotionalism and expressive qualities: Critics who support this theory are primarily concerned with the emotional content of the artwork. They require a strong sense of feelings, moods, or ideas to be communicated from the artwork to the viewer.
- Marxism- Social and Economic Functions of Art
- Feminism- Smaller narratives that go unheard which can deal with gender, race, ethnicity, etc.
- Psychoanalysis- What are the unconscious meanings that are produced by the artwork?
- Are there other criteria to consider? Craftsmanship, originality, historical importance, comparison to similar work.

Alternative: **Barrett model**

1. **Description:** What do I see? (feel, hear, smell, taste)?
 1. **Subject Matter:** Does the artwork depict anything? If so, what?
 2. **Medium:** What tools, materials, or processes did the art maker use?
 3. **Form:** What elements did the maker choose and how did the maker organize the elements?
2. **Interpretation:** What is the artwork about?
 1. **Interpretive Statement:** Can I express what I think the artwork is about in one sentence?
 2. **Evidence:** What evidence inside or outside the artwork supports my interpretation?
3. **Judgment:** Is it a successful artwork?
 1. **Criteria:** What criteria do I think are most appropriate for judging the artwork?

2. **Evidence:** What evidence inside or outside the artwork relates to each criterion?
3. **Judgment:** Based on the criteria and evidence, what is my judgment about the quality of the artwork?