

Formal Analysis Worksheet

Elements of Form	Description	Formal Analysis
<p><i>Look beyond content to consider the ways that form produces meaning in a work of art. Content describes what is represented in a work of art; form describes how the artist represented it.</i></p> <p><i>Make sure your description addresses each of these formal elements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Material qualities: Consider size, medium or material, color, texture <input type="checkbox"/> Composition: The structure or organization of forms within a work of art. Consider scale, balance, line, a/symmetry, dynamism/stability, etc. What does the composition emphasize; how does the composition direct the viewer's gaze? <input type="checkbox"/> Space: The depiction of space within a 2D image or the use of space by a 3D image. Consider whether the silhouette is open/closed (for 3D); or whether the depicted space is deep/shallow, perspectival/schematic (for 2D). Is the viewer invited to share the work's space, or does the work create barriers? <input type="checkbox"/> Style: The artist's particular manner of representation. Consider whether forms or figures are naturalistic/stylized; geometric/organic; dis/proportionate, etc. How do these stylistic choices shape a viewer's understanding of the work or its content? 	<p><i>Describe the work's formal features.</i></p>	<p><i>What ideas do these formal features convey?</i></p>

Thesis Workspace

What ideas do the formal elements of this work of art communicate? Why are these ideas interesting, important, or relevant?

Your thesis is your answer to these questions.

Review your notes on the reverse of this sheet. What themes emerge from your study of the work of art? How can you use your interpretations to answer the questions above?

Use this space to compose a 1-sentence thesis statement. Your thesis should state an explicit and specific argument (position/interpretation) about your works of art.

What evidence do you need to provide to support your thesis? What does a reader need to understand to agree with you?

List the most important evidence for your argument in the outline below:

A.

B.

C.

D.