SAVE THIS HANDOUT #1

CRITIQUE AN ARTWORK

There are four main steps to CRITIQUING a work of art:

1. DESCRIPTION – Identify FACTS about what you, the viewer, sees.

 What do you observe?

 What is the SUBJECT MATTER? (examples: portrait, landscape, still-life)

 What is the ART PROCESS? (examples: drawing, painting, sculpture)

 What is the MEDIUM? (examples: pencil, paint, clay, metal)

 Was there a particular technique used? (examples: short pencil strokes, carving, dripping)

 What kinds of ELEMENTS OF ART (LINE, SHAPE, VALUE, COLOR, TEXTURE,

 FORM/MASS, SPACE) do you see and where are they?

2. ANALYSIS – Identify HOW the artist used the PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

 How does this artwork show BALANCE? How is it the same? How is it different? (SYMMETRICAL – same on both sides or ASYMMETRICAL – different on each side)

 How does this artwork show REPETITION? (pattern or rhythm of art elements)

 How does this artwork show CONTRAST? (difference between two things)

 Where is the EMPHASIS? (center of focus)

 Does the use of art elements suggest MOVEMENT? How?

 Does the work have UNITY? (Do all parts seem to go together well)

 What is the PROPORTION of different elements?

 Is there much VARIETY? (Are there many different elements or are they similar?)

3. INTERPRETATION – INFER the purpose and meaning.

 Why was this artwork made? (ARTISTIC EXPRESSION/show feelings, FUNCTIONAL/show what something looked like, NARRATIVE/tell a story, CEREMONIAL/document history)

 What is the significance/importance?

 What does this artwork communicate to you?

4. EVALUATION – Judgment

 Was this artwork successful? Why or why not?

 Is this good art? Give reasons.

 Do you like this artwork? Give reasons.

SAVE THIS ASSIGNMENT #1

CRITIQUE AN ARTWORK

1. Select an artwork you like from the textbook.

2. In paragraph form, write a critique of the work using your handout as a guide.

3. Use complete sentences and correct grammar.

4. Have an introductory sentence, a logical progression of ideas and an appropriate closing sentence.

5. Use a form of these words correctly: critique, description, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, subject matter, medium, elements of art, balance, and contrast.

6. Include your interpretation and evaluation of the work in the paragraph.

7. You may type this or write it legibly.