

WRITTEN CRITIQUE

Cathy Stone

The writing component in this course is assigned in the form of a "Written Critique". As modeled verbally in the classroom, the written form of this assignment is intended to give the student an opportunity to formulate and use written language to express formal and psychological attributes of a work or works of art.

The critique should be written following the same format as an English essay; opening thesis, body, and supporting closing paragraph. The opening paragraph should clearly state the thesis statement and include the name of the artist, title of the exhibition and title of the work(s) being discussed. The body should support the thesis with further discussion and a more thorough examination of the work included in the exhibition. Formal concerns, composition, form repetition, balance, color, light, texture, etc., will be referred to as appropriate to the discussion of the work. Psychological observations, how the work makes one feel, how color is used to evoke "mood", visceral quality created by use of media/texture, and atmospheric quality are examples of what might be explored. The conclusion will reiterate or restate the introduction and close the essay.

The point of view or positive or negative opinion of each student will vary based on each person's frame of reference. The intention of the assignment is to give the student additional experience in developing language and writing skills and the opportunity to formulate opinion and to be able to write utilizing the terminology introduced in the verbal critique portion of the class. The inclusion of art historical significance including ethnicity, personal observation/reflection and formal criteria, hopefully will give each student the opportunity to engage in dialogue in a personally meaningful way appropriate to the work being discussed.