

• WHAT SHOULD I TALK AND/OR WRITE ABOUT?

You need to show evidence of your contextual understanding. That is your ability to understand the work of artists, craftspeople and designers. How and why the works were created; and how these works have influenced you and informed your own practice.

• ART IS A PRACTICAL SUBJECT. WHY DO I NEED TO WRITE AND/OR TALK ABOUT ART & ARTISTS?

To achieve in ART 20 and 30 you need to address all OBJECTIVES. As part of this process you must develop your ideas in ART by writing down your thoughts and processes, explaining the links you are making between your own work and other Art and Artists. This especially applies to the specific objectives in Alberta Education Art curriculum Compositions and Encounters, but is also important throughout the other Assessment Objectives; in your explanations and evaluations: of experiments; creative decisions; developments; refinements and outcomes.

The framework below will help you to get started when discussing and writing about Art and Artifacts. You can use this framework to discuss your own work too. Class discussion in groups with your peers and with your teacher will help to establish good practice, and your responses can be recorded in writing or other forms. You can add in your own words to the relevant sentence starters so that they relate to the works you are studying or your own work.

ART FOCUS or PROMPT	Sentence starters
<p><b>1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b>            What is the image or artefact?            Does it have a name or title?            Who made the work?            Where was it created?            Does it belong to a particular Art movement or tradition?</p>	<p><i>The piece of work that I have chosen to write about is called 'A few snips'</i>  <i>The artist who made it is Frida Kahlo</i>  <i>It was made in her home in New Mexico</i>  <i>The work belongs to a period called: (Surrealism, Art Nouveau, Pop Art, etc.)</i>  <i>This work belongs to: (The Arts and Crafts, Vorticist, Fuave movement, etc.)</i></p>
<p><b>2. WHAT ELSE DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?</b>            What size or shape is it?            What material/s is it made from?            What is the subject matter?            Is the image or artefact realistic or abstract?</p>	<p><i>The piece is a free standing sculpture.....</i>  <i>The composition is one of a series...</i>  <i>The composition is a life sized double-portrait consisting of....</i>  <i>The piece of art contains mixed media, which incorporates collage, acetate, sand, oil paint..</i>  <i>The painting is highly realistic or 'hyper realistic'.</i>  <i>The painting is a miniature, to be worn around the neck of a loved one in a locket.</i>  <i>The piece is created from organic found objects in the natural environment and has been</i></p>

	<i>documented in a series of photographs.</i>
<p><b>3. WHY WAS IT MADE? WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE OR MEANING?</b>          What do you think the painting/sculpture/artefact is about?          Does it have a story or are there any interesting facts you can relate about it?          Can you explain why the artist created this piece of work?</p>	<p><i>The painting is an abstract composition based on a city landscape....</i>  <i>This aboriginal painting contains a story within its design..</i>  <i>The artist created this piece of work to communicate how the horrors of war because...</i>  <i>The artist created these paintings to show how light changes during different times of the day..</i></p>
<p><b>4. HOW HAS IT BEEN CREATED? HOW HAVE THE VISUAL ELEMENTS BEEN USED?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COMPOSITION</li> <li>• LINE</li> <li>• TONE</li> <li>• TEXTURE</li> <li>• COLOUR</li> <li>• FORM</li> <li>• PATTERN</li> </ul>	<p><i>The artist used short broken lines to create his drawing..</i>  <i>The stone sculpture has been polished to a very shiny ...</i>  <i>The colours used are bright and full of joy and it makes the viewer feel...</i>  <i>The colours used are dull and evoke a sad mood ....</i>  <i>The composition is very dynamic and exciting....</i>  <i>I particularly like the shapes and colours because they are harmonious / organic and remind me of.....</i></p>
<p><b>5. WHAT MATERIALS, PROCESSES, EQUIPMENT OR TECHNIQUES HAVE BEEN USED?</b></p> <p>Materials:          Pencil / charcoal / oil paint / watercolour / fabric / paper / thread / clay/ mixed-media / metal / card / wood, etc.</p> <p>Processes:          Drawing/painting/carved/printed/ use of digital software, sewing, etc.</p> <p>Equipment:          Camera, lighting, computer, printing press, laser-cutter, printing press, roller, etc</p> <p>Techniques,          Impasto, wax-resist, aquatint, glazing, free-arm embroidery, digital layering, lost wax, sgraffito, fusing, glazing, etc.</p>	<p><i>The artist has used a combination of wood, metal and wire in the construction of ....</i>  <i>This piece is created using fleece and natural dyes.</i>  <i>The relief print was created using the cut-to-waste or reduction method.</i>  <i>This photograph was taken with a digital camera using a slow shutter speed so that the artist could 'draw' with light.</i>  <i>In her etching ... has worked on a zinc plate, which provides a cleaner and more detailed image. The use of aquatint has successfully rendered a variety of tones and textures and the original print has been heavily embossed through the pressure of a tight roller press.</i></p>
<p><b>6. WHAT COMMENTS CAN YOU MAKE ABOUT THE WORK?</b>          How do you feel about the work and why?          Is there anything you particularly like or don't like about it?</p>	<p><i>The sculpture had a huge impact on me when I viewed it at.....</i>  <i>The painting is very disturbing and I do not like the emphasis on....</i>  <i>The artist was trying to teach the viewer lessons</i></p>

How does it link with your work, ideas, themes or techniques and help you make progress?

What can you say about the scale of the piece?

Where did you see the piece? Is it in a Museum, Art Gallery, Artist's Blog...?

Why have you analysed this work and how can you use it, or how have you used it, to help develop your own ideas?

*about right and wrong through visual symbols and I aim to use symbolism in .....*

*The artefact is tiny, jewelled and precious, small enough to hold in the palm of your hand. It was displayed in a cabinet in a dimly lit at.....*

*In my exploration of colour relationships the discovery of the limited palette in this work has given me....*