Use the following questions to guide you in the critical analysis process.

**Guiding Questions in the Critical Analysis Process**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGE OF THE PROCESS</th>
<th>SAMPLE GUIDING QUESTIONS</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Initial Reaction**               | • What is your first impression of this work?  
  • What does this work bring to mind?  
  • What does this movement suggest to you?  
  • What emotions does this work evoke?  
  • What puzzles you? What questions do you have?  
  • What connections can you make between this work and your own experience or other art forms?                                                                 |
| **Analysis and Interpretation**    | • What elements, principles, and/or conventions of the art form are used in this work?  
  • How are the elements and/or principles organized, combined, or arranged in this work by the artist?  
  • What do you think is the theme or subject of the work? (What is the artist trying to communicate, and why? What did you intend to communicate, and why?)  
  • Why do you think the artist created this work?  
  • What message or meaning do you think the work conveys?  
  • What do you feel is the artist’s view of the world?  
  • How does this view match or contrast with your own view of the world?                                                                                                                                 |
| **Consideration of Cultural Context** | • What social, political, and historical events may have influenced the artist in this work?  
  • What cultural movements, events, or traditions or other works in the arts may have influenced the artist?  
  • What events in the artist’s life may have affected the creation of the work?                                                                                                                                 |
| **Expression of Aesthetic Judgment** | • How effectively does the artist select and combine elements to achieve an intended effect in this work—that is, what works?  
  • What does not work, and why?  
  • Has your point of view shifted from your initial reaction? If so, how has it changed, and why?  
  • In what ways does the artist evoke joy, sadness, or other emotions in this work?                                                                                                                                 |
| **Ongoing Reflection**             | • In what ways do you feel your work is successful?  
  • In what ways would you change the work to improve it?  
  • How did your work affect the audience? Was it the way you intended?  
  • How would you alter this work for a different audience, or to send a different message?                                                                                                                                 |

Based on the Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10, The Arts, pp. 18–19.