

LM 1 The Critical Analysis Process

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

Guiding Questions in the Critical Analysis Process

STAGE OF THE PROCESS	SAMPLE GUIDING QUESTIONS
<i>Initial Reaction</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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?
<i>Analysis and Interpretation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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?
<i>Consideration of Cultural Context</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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?
<i>Expression of Aesthetic Judgment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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?
<i>Ongoing Reflection</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.