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# How to Write an Effective Visual Analysis of a Work of Art

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Visual analysis is an exercise in close observation. Sometimes called “formal analysis,” this type of art historical writing is a thorough analysis of the formal (having to do with form) characteristics of a work of art. The goal is to deepen the reader’s understanding and appreciation of the work.

## Instructions

Write a visual analysis of a work of art. Assume that your readers are curious and intelligent, but know nothing about this particular work of art. How will you help them “see” it better?

### Step 1. Choose a work of art.

Select something that sparks your imagination! Pick an object that you find beautiful, thrilling, disturbing, ugly... Is there a work that prompts questions, that makes you want to learn more? If so, it’s probably a good choice!

### Step 2. Look. Then, brainstorm.

Prepare to spend at least 10 minutes looking at this work of art. Write down everything you see; you’ll be surprised at how much goes unnoticed unless you record it on paper.

Make a sketch. Even if you think you have no artistic talent, sketching can be a remarkably effective tool to help you “see” a work of art in a new way. You are not expected to discuss every visual aspect of the work in your paper, but at this stage you must weigh all the evidence before you decide which elements are the most important. Brainstorm.

### Step 3. Organize and compose your draft.

Now, think about how to organize and express your ideas in the most effective way possible. You may wish to compose an outline. Assume that you are writing for a general audience, interested and intelligent, but lacking extensive knowledge of art history—much as if you were giving a gallery talk to introduce the viewer to the object. Your analysis should be organized into two paragraphs.

Art History

High School/Pre Art History,  
College/Undergrad, Homeschool

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At the top of the page, fully identify the title of the work, the artist (if known), the date, medium, and current location. For example:



#### Democritus the Great

Originally in the location of Macedonia and Chios; now in Paris, France. Name: Democritus in the Palazzo dei Conservatori Rome

Medium: hard marble # 8" high  
Imperial Roman, ca. 100-200 CE

#### Keywords

This is not a research paper. It's a chance to engage your own, great brain, and your writing skills!

# How To Write A Visual Analysis Art Paper

**Ernest Jones**



## How To Write A Visual Analysis Art Paper:

**Delivering Authentic Arts Education 4e** Judith Dinham, 2019-09-30 This market leading practical text helps student teachers develop their confidence understanding and skills to effectively and authentically teach arts With a strong balance between theory and practice Delivering Authentic Arts Education outlines the true nature of the key learning area of arts education and its importance in the curriculum emphasising the arts as forms of creative activity meaning making and expression in a cultural context Initial chapters discuss how to recognise and build on existing artistic abilities and pedagogical skills how to encourage children s creativity how to lead arts appreciation experiences and the general principles of planning and assessment Part 2 specifically examines the five arts areas dance drama media arts music and visual arts The final part of the text Units of Inquiry contains valuable sample learning activities and resources that demonstrate how to plan an effective lesson within a unit of inquiry Writing for the Visual Arts Mashey Maurice Bernstein, George Yatchisin, 2001 Our purpose in this handbook is to help you the evolving artist learn to articulate your concepts and ideas and also to argue for and earn your place in the world of art Preface pg ix **Music and the Functions of the Brain: Arousal, Emotions, and Pleasure** Mark Reybrouck, Tuomas Eerola, Piotr Podlipniak, 2018-04-12 Music impinges upon the body and the brain As such it has significant inductive power which relies both on innate dispositions and acquired mechanisms and competencies The processes are partly autonomous and partly deliberate and interrelations between several levels of processing are becoming clearer with accumulating new evidence For instance recent developments in neuroimaging techniques have broadened the field by encompassing the study of cortical and subcortical processing of the music The domain of musical emotions is a typical example with a major focus on the pleasure that can be derived from listening to music Pleasure however is not the only emotion to be induced and the mechanisms behind its elicitation are far from understood There are also mechanisms related to arousal and activation that are both less differentiated and at the same time more complex than the assumed mechanisms that trigger basic emotions It is imperative therefore to investigate what pleasurable and mood modifying effects music can have on human beings in real time listening situations This e book is an attempt to answer these questions Revolving around the specificity of music experience in terms of perception emotional reactions and aesthetic assessment it presents new hypotheses theoretical claims as well as new empirical data which contribute to a better understanding of the functions of the brain as related to musical experience Contemporary Research Methods in Pharmacy and Health Services Shane P. Desselle, Victoria Garcia Cardenas, Parisa Aslani, Aleda M. H. Chen, Timothy F. Chen, Fernanda Stumpf Tonin, 2022-05-10 Emerging methods as well as best practices in well used methods in pharmacy are of great benefit to researchers graduate students graduate programs residents and fellows also in other health science areas Researchers require a text to assist in the design of experiments to address seemingly age old problems New interventions are needed to improve medication adherence patients lived experiences in

health care provider patient relationships and even various facets of pharmacogenomics Advances in systems re engineering can optimize health care practitioners roles Contemporary Research Methods in Pharmacy and Health Services includes multi authored chapters by renowned experts in their field Chapters cover examples in pharmacy health services and others transcendent of medical care following a standardized format including key research points valid and invalid assumptions pitfalls to avoid applications and further inquiry This is a valuable resource for researchers both in academia and corporate R D primarily in pharmacy but also in health services and other health disciplines Social science researchers and government scientists can also benefit from the reading Provides multi authored chapters by renowned experts in their field Includes examples for pharmacy and health services and others that are transcendent of medical care Covers key research points valid and invalid assumptions pitfalls to avoid applications and further inquiry

**Southeastern College Art Conference**  
**Review** Southeastern College Art Conference,2003 Tests in Fundamental Abilities of Visual Art ... Grades 3-12 Alfred S. Lewerenz,1927 *Papers on psycho-analysis* Ernest Jones,1919 **Resources in Education** ,2000-10 Penn State Papers/art Education Pennsylvania State University. Division of Art and Music Education,1976 **Visual Reconciliation in Transitional Societies** ,2018-12-21 Bachelor Thesis from the year 2018 in the subject Politics Topic Peace and Conflict Security grade 8 0 University of Groningen language English abstract This paper underlines the importance of an incorporation of visual methodology into the study of transitional justice It makes an argument for that through the assessment of visual displays on the peace walls as commemoration space in Northern Ireland relating the reflections of the local transitional justice process to reconciliation in the country Transitional justice uses a combination of judicial and non judicial means to achieve its goal Typically there are five tools that can be used in a transitional justice process They include institutional reform truth reparations amnesties or prosecutions and reconciliation While all can be important tools are usually tailored individually for different transitional societies While this paper underlines the importance of an incorporation of visual methodology into the study of transitional justice and makes an argument for that through the assessment of the peace walls as commemoration space in Northern Ireland it can only be a starting point Studying reconciliation through the visual analysis of space in transitional societies can be an important tool for transitional justice and this paper makes an argument for more integration of it into the field

**The Journal of Imaging Science and Technology** ,1992 Visual Arts Research ,2002 **Abstracts of Papers Delivered in Art History Sessions** College Art Association of America. Meeting,2000 *Artpaper* ,1987 **Abstracts of Papers - Byzantine Studies Conference** ,1994 **The ... Yearbook of the National Reading Conference** National Reading Conference (U.S.). Annual Meeting,2009 *Current Index to Journals in Education* ,2002 **Graphic Arts Japan** ,1973 **Documents, Working Papers - Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly** Council of Europe. Parliamentary Assembly,2003 Art and Archaeology Technical Abstracts ,1984

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