

Visual Analysis Worksheet

Purpose:

A structured worksheet that guides students through careful observation, critical thinking, and interpretation before they begin writing.

Cover Page

Title: Visual Analysis Worksheet

Subtitle: A Step-by-Step Guide to Observing, Analyzing, and Interpreting Visual Texts

Use for: Paintings, photographs, advertisements, films stills, posters, digital media

Section 1: Basic Information

- Title of work:
- Creator/Artist:
- Date created:
- Medium/Format:
- Location or source:
- Intended audience (if known):

Section 2: Initial Impressions

Directions: Record your first reactions before analyzing details.

- What immediately stands out?
- What emotions or moods does the image create?
- What words would you use to describe your reaction?
- What questions come to mind right away?

Section 3: Visual Elements Checklist

Directions: Observe carefully and answer only what applies.

Color

- Dominant colors:
- Color contrasts:
- Emotional or symbolic impact of color:

Line

- Straight, curved, diagonal, or implied lines:
- Direction of movement created by lines:

Shape and Form

- Organic or geometric shapes:
- Use of positive and negative space:

Space

- Foreground, middle ground, background:
- Depth or flatness:

Texture

- Actual or implied texture:
- How texture affects realism or mood:

Light and Value

- Light source:
- Highlights and shadows:
- Contrast levels:

Section 4: Design Principles Evaluation

Directions: Identify how the artist organizes elements.

- Balance (symmetrical, asymmetrical, radial):
- Emphasis (focal point):
- Contrast:
- Movement:
- Rhythm or repetition:
- Unity or harmony:
- Proportion or scale:

Explain how at least two principles influence meaning:

Section 5: Context and Background

Directions: Use research or inference.

- Historical or cultural context:
- Social or political influences:
- Artist's purpose or message:
- Intended response from the audience:

Section 6: Interpretation and Meaning

Directions: Develop your analysis.

- What is the main idea or message?
- How do visual elements support this interpretation?
- What evidence from the image supports your claim?

Section 7: Pre-Writing Notes

- Possible thesis statement:
- Strong details to include:
- Questions to explore further: