

# HOW TO LOOK AT ART

## DESCRIPTION

*A visual inventory is made*

**WHAT DO YOU SEE?**

**LINE, SHAPE, COLOR, TEXTURE, SPACE, MEDIA/ MATERIALS  
USED**

## ANALYSIS

*Relationships among the design elements are noted*

**BALANCE, RHYTHM, CONTRAST, PROPORTION, EMPHASIS**

## INTERPRETATION

*An attempt is made to determine the idea which seems to unify all of the  
separate traits of the artwork*

**WHAT IS THE MESSAGE OF THE ARTIST?**

## JUDGMENT

*The viewer may form a judgment about the work*  
Connect/ Evaluation

**HOW DO I RELATE TO THIS PIECE OF ART?**



## Learning through Inquiry

Students on a guided tour at PAMM are encouraged to slow down, take time to look closely at a work of art, and share their observations. Here are some tips that PAMM Teaching Artists often use to encourage close looking and discussion. You can use them in the classroom too!

### What is inquiry?

“The Inquiry method is a vehicle which reinforces the cognitive systems by building visual literacy. Inquiry is the name given to an instructional framework that begins with questions about objects and ends in critical thinking.” –John Dewey

### TIPS

- When developing an inquiry, make sure to **avoid definite language** in your objective. It's best to begin your objective with statements such as: students will explore, experience, or discuss
- Always allow **time** for students to look carefully at the work before discussing it as a group
- Make sure to **avoid yes or no questions** and instead pose simple follow-up questions that can help students support their answer and deepen their initial observations
- Integrate information that is **relevant and meaningful** to the discussion while still encouraging students to share their personal and imaginative responses to an artwork
- **Be flexible!** Let the conversation flow by allowing students to create questions and debate amongst each other. Return to the objective if you get stuck

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LEADING AN INQUIRY-BASED DISCUSSION:

- “Five Tips for Teaching with Works of Art | MoMA Education” <http://bit.ly/1SfZMls>
- Whitney Museum of American Art, Inquiry Teaching Tips: <http://bit.ly/1T7vWOH>
- Consider introducing alternative sources of information such as videos on Art21, Artbabble, YouTube, educator blogs, and audio guides on museum



*Knight School Programs have been made possible by endowed funds granted by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and Heckscher Foundation for Children to underwrite the museum's broad portfolio of education programs. Together with leadership support from Miami-Dade County, these funders enable the museum to transform the lives of young people in our community through our art education programs.*

