



Personal response

What does an art work mean? No two people will have the same answer. Your perspectives, opinions, and feelings all play a part in your interpretation. To find out what influences your response to art, look at a range of works and answer these questions.

Associations

- Describe the various elements of the art work (eg, figures, objects, colours, shapes). What personal associations do you make with these elements, and the work as a whole?

Ideas

- What ideas and beliefs do you think the artist might be communicating? How do these differ from your own?

Memories

- Does the work trigger any memories for you? Describe them.

Emotion

- Does the work stimulate an emotional response in you? If so, explain how it makes you feel and why.

Intrigue

- Do any elements of the work intrigue you? Describe them and their effect on you. If you could talk to the artist about this work, what questions would you ask?

Message

- What messages do you think the artist might be communicating through the work?
- What other messages do you perceive in the work?

Inspiration

- Does anything about the work (eg, subject, technique) inspire you? Describe what you might create in response.

Personal response

Style and subject matter

- Does the style or subject matter of the work remind you of any works by other artists? If so, identify these aspects and discuss.

Context

- How is the art work displayed, and how does this affect your response to it? How might your interpretation of the work differ if you were to see an image of it in a book or online?
- How do the labels and any other interpretive material (such as sketchbooks, audio guides, online descriptions) affect your experience of the work?

Wider context

- What do other people think of this work?
Eg, people you know, artists, critics, curators?

Opinion

- What is your opinion of the work? Do you think it is effective? Do you like it? Why? Why not?



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