

ROE ETHRIDGE: TWEET - CRITIC

Gallery activity for touring exhibitions and critiquing the art

GRADE LEVEL: 9TH - 12TH GRADE

Please be advised. Roe Ethridge's Nearest Neighbor exhibition features one photograph, on the 5th floor, that contains an image of the nude female body. CAC docents have been trained, when touring with children, to stay only on the 4th floor. A request can be made to tour the entire exhibition. Examples of the exact photograph can be provided upon request.



Roe Ethridge, *Durango in the Canal*, Belle Glade, FL, 2011. C-print.

Being asked to respond to artwork can be a daunting task. Providing students with standards and limits can make the critic process much easier and less intimidating. Introducing the basic elements of art criticism (**observation, analysis, interpretation and evaluation**) gives students guidelines for developing their response to a work of art.

Twitter and the concept of a “tweet” is likely familiar to the students making this is a relatable platform for the students to work from. Using the basic “tweet” structure (a short 140 character statement) as a template to critic art presents a fun and thoughtful challenge. When the number of characters in a statement is limited to 140 the need to use concise, descriptive language is imperative. This restriction encourages students to concentrate on the value of each word they include in their statement. Emphasizing that the critics should be positive and/or contain constructive criticism sets a less judgmental tone and promotes valuable skills in evaluation.

This lesson is a guide for students responding to a work of visual art however it can also be adapted to assist the students in their response to literature. Students can apply similar guidelines to their subjective and objective reactions to both fiction and non-fiction. They can describe the written work objectively, identify the literary elements employed by the author in the piece then apply their subjective reasoning to interpret and evaluate the prose.

VOCABULARY

Critic	Analysis
Tweet	Interpretation
Objective	Evaluation
Subjective	Formalism
Observation	

MATERIALS

Tweet-critic template

Pencil

Image of Roe Ethridge's photograph, *Durango in the Canal*.

BEFOREHAND

- Present the definition of **objective** and **subjective** statements to the students. Display one of Roe Ethridge's photographs such as *Durango in the Canal* and ask the students to make objective and subjective statements about the piece.
- Point out the language in each statement that makes it either objective or subjective.
- Write one of the statements generated in this discussion on the board. Work with the students to condense the wording to create a tweet limited to 140 characters or less.
- Point out that word choice is critical in constructing a tweet. Words must be carefully chosen in order to completely express an idea while adhering to the tweet's strict structure.
- Share Roe Ethridge's photograph, *Durango in the Canal*, with the class.
- Introduce the four elements of Edmund Feldman's simple structure of art criticism and discuss the questions for each.

Observation: Describe what you see **without judgment** (all objective statements)

- What form of art is it? painting, sculpture, photography...?
- Who is the artist?
- Where is it located?
- What is the title of the work?
- What materials are used?
- What is the subject of the work?

Tweet-critic example:

"*Durango in the Canal* by Roe Ethridge is exhibited at the CAC and presents a car emerging from a canal." (105 characters)

Analysis: Use formalism to identify the technical elements in the work such as color, shape, texture, light and discuss how you feel the use of these effects the mood, meaning and appeal of the work. (objective and subjective statements)

- What colors are used? (objective statement)
- What shapes or objects have been represented? (objective statement)
- How is light or contrast used? (objective statement)
- Is there a use of pattern? (objective statement)
- How do you feel these effect the mood, meaning or appeal of the work?
(subjective statement)

Tweet-critic example:

"The white car is illuminated by the sun and appears ghostlike as it is pulled from the dark, murky canal." (105 characters)

BEFOREHAND (CONTINUED)

Interpretation: This is the more subjective part of your art critique. Apply your observations and analyze to interpret the work- include your opinion about the artist's intention.

- How does the artwork make you feel? Why?
- What do you think the artist is trying to communicate through the artwork?
- Why do you feel the artist chose these materials, mediums, and subject matter?
- Comment on its aesthetic, social, historic importance.

Tweet-critic example:

"The image of the white car being removed from the canal is haunting and the artist leaves the viewer searching for answers." (123 characters)

Evaluation: This is your conclusion- your opportunity to give your evaluation of the artwork. It is a subjective summary of all of the preceding elements in your critic.

- Do you like the painting? Why?
- Do you feel this work of art has a larger meaning? Explain?
- In what ways do you feel the artwork has value?

Tweet-critic example:

"The artist successfully invites us to brainstorm details in order to mentally reconstruct the story depicted here." (114 characters)

PROCEDURE

- Tour photos on the 4th floor of the Roe Ethridge exhibition at the CAC.
- Have the students choose one photograph to critique.
- Using the Tweet-critic guideline and template instruct the students to write a paragraph for each of the four elements of art critique: observation, analysis, interpretation and evaluation.
- Once completed have the students condense each statement to create tweet-critics that are limited to 140 characters or less.
- Have the students share their critiques with the class.

RESOURCES

<http://itismath.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Feldmans-method.pdf>

Barret, Terry. Interpreting Art: Reflecting, Wondering and Responding. P. 49-50.

Handouts on following pages.

TWEET - CRITIC

OBSERVATION

ANALYSIS

TWEET - CRITIC

INTERPRETATION

EVALUATION

TWEET - CRITIC

ELEMENT OF ART CRITIC	GUIDE QUESTIONS	SUMMARY PARAGRAPH	TWEET-CRITIC EXAMPLE	TWEET-CRITIC
<p>Observation: Describe what you see without judgment (all objective statements)</p>	<p>What form of art is it? painting, sculpture, photography...? Who is the artist? Where is it located? What is the title of the work? What materials are used? What is the subject of the work?</p>		<p><i>Durango in the Canal</i> by Roe Ethridge is exhibited at the CAC and presents a car emerging from a canal. (105 characters)</p>	
<p>Analysis: Use formalism to identify the technical elements in the work such as color, shape, texture, light and discuss how you feel the use of these effects the mood, meaning and appeal of the work.</p>	<p>What colors are used? <i>(objective statement)</i> What shapes or objects have been represented? <i>(objective statement)</i> How is light or contrast used? <i>(objective statement)</i> Is there a use of pattern? <i>(objective statement)</i> How do you feel these effect the mood, meaning or appeal of the work? <i>(subjective statement)</i></p>		<p>The white car is illuminated by the sun and appears ghostlike as it is pulled from the dark, murky canal. (105 characters)</p>	

TWEET - CRITIC

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<p>Interpretation: This is the more subjective part of your art critique. Apply your observations and analyze to interpret the work- include your opinion about the artist's intention.</p>	<p>How does the artwork make you feel? Why? What do you think the artist is trying to communicate through the artwork? Why do you feel the artist chose these materials, mediums, and subject matter? Comment on its aesthetic, social, historic importance.</p>		<p>The image of the white car being removed from the canal is haunting and the artist leaves the viewer searching for answers.</p> <p>(123 characters)</p>	
<p>Evaluation: This is your conclusion- your opportunity to give your evaluation of the artwork. It is a subjective summary of all of the proceeding elements in your critic.</p>	<p>Do you like the painting? Why? Do you feel this work of art has a larger meaning? Explain? In what ways do you feel the artwork has value?</p>		<p>The artist successfully invites us to brainstorm details in order to mentally reconstruct the story depicted here.</p> <p>(114 characters)</p>	