

Compare and Contrast

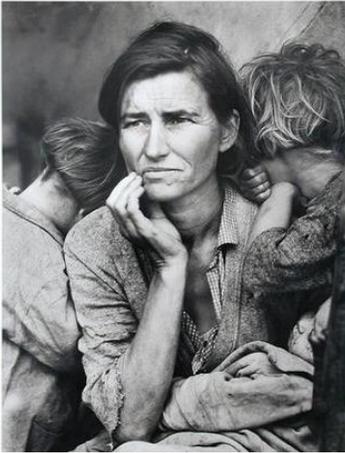
A Comparison of Different Artists' Views of Motherhood

Critically examining two works of art, and finding their similarities and differences allows viewers to better appreciate each piece and the choices that the artist made in its creation.

This isn't English class - why do we have to write?

RESEARCH SHOWS that when students take ownership for their learning by educating themselves through accumulation of basic knowledge of the visual arts and application of art critique methods for the visual arts, their studio products improve greatly. In other words, **the more you put your thoughts about art into words, the better your own art creations will become!**

Dorthea Lange
Migrant Mother
Photograph 1936



Colors
Bright? Muddy? Warm? Cool? Intense Light?

Space
Is the artwork crowded or are there large areas where nothing is happening?

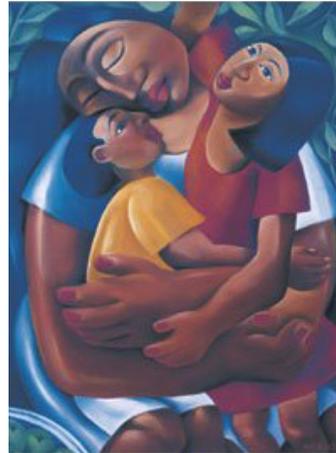
Composition/Balance/Emphasis
Where does your eye go first? What balances the shapes in the artwork?

Texture
Smooth or evidence of brush strokes?

Mood/Message
Happy? Depressed? Excited? Tense? Calm?
Comforting? How does the art make you feel?

Realistic or Artistic Interpretation?
Do you know the style-genre?

Jaime Olaya
La Familia
Painting 1897



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DOROTHIA LANGI | Migrant Mother | NIPOMA, CALIFORNIA
1936

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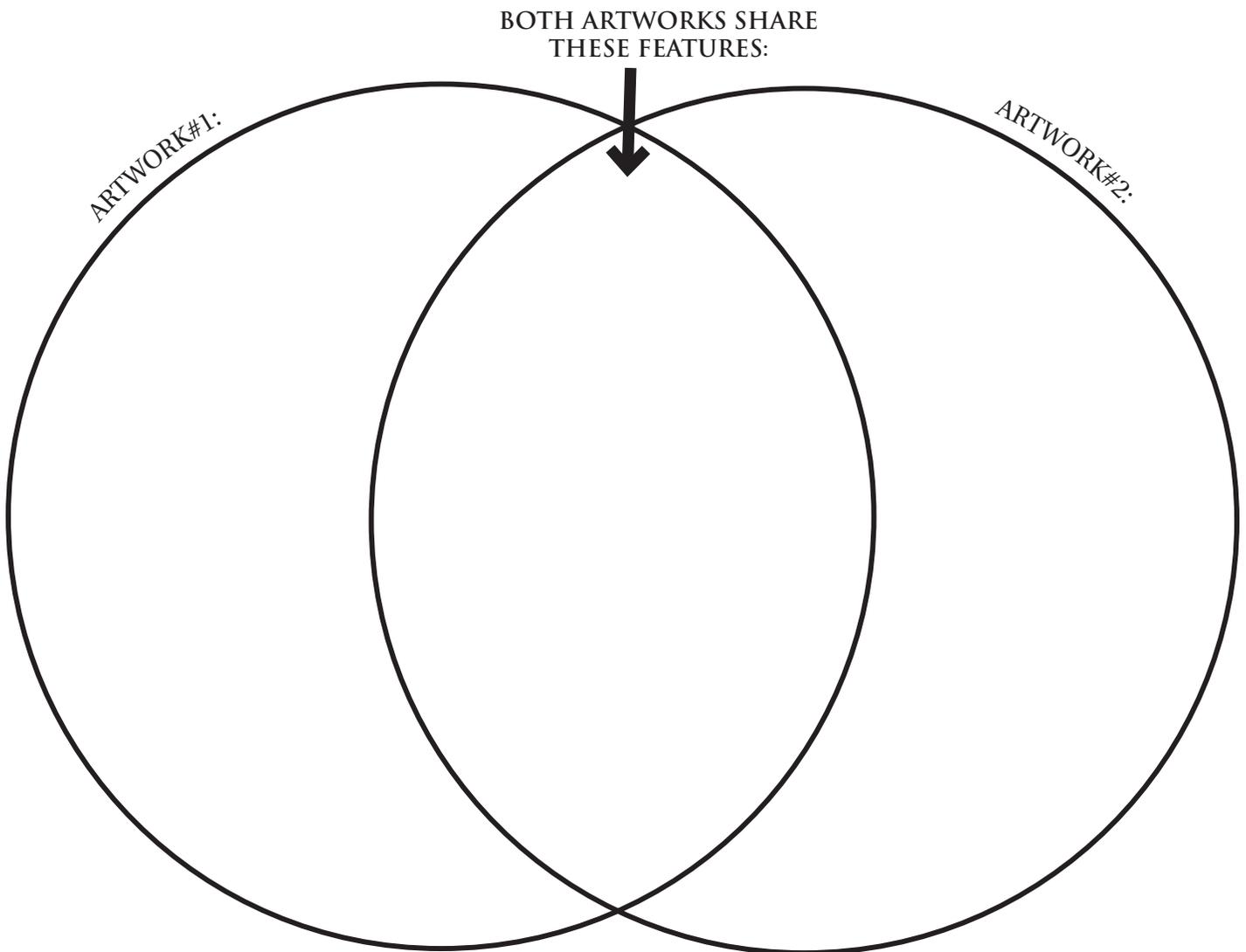
Name _____ Period & Date _____

How do I go about this project?

Start with the Venn Diagram below or another kind of graphic organizer, if you prefer. Make notes on how the works of art displayed in the front of the classroom are different and how they are alike.

Now, using your diagram/notes, write **5 QUALITY paragraphs** (each having a topic sentence, concrete detail, commentary, and concluding sentence) about the two pieces of art.

Stuck for ideas on what to write? Describe the art. Use the questions and information in this project packet to help you analyze the art.



Suggested Words to Use in Analyzing Art

radial

TEXTURE

bumpy

flat

rough

shiny

smooth

soft

velvety

wet

MOOD/MESSAGE

intense

depressing

hopeful

forced

gentle

loving

political

everyday scene

imaginative

Madonna-like

emotional

sad

spiritual

strong diagonals

happy

fun

angry

frustrated

hopeless

playful

sincere

serious

STYLE

Impressionist

Realistic

Fantasy

Photograph

abstract

historical

ethnic

historical

romantic

classical

COLOR

Bright

Subdued

Black & White / Grayscale

dark

medium

playful

colorful

primary colors

warm

cool colors

light

dark

intense

muddied

contributes to mood

doesn't have effect on mood of work

very noticeable - stands out

realistic

abstract use of color

idealized - "perfect" coloring

Without color, this artwork would fail

calm

clear

dull

exciting

grayed

multicolored

pale

SPACE

deep

flat

open

shallow

crowded

empty

COMPOSITION /

BALANCE / EMPHASIS

balanced

controlled

dignified

elegant

formal

symmetrical

center-balanced

off-center balanced

strong diagonals

strong verticals

busy

Writing About Art

DESCRIBE IT

1. How would you describe this painting to a person who could not see it?
2. What kinds of things do you see in this painting?
3. What words would you use to describe this painting?
4. How would you describe the lines in this picture? The shapes? The colors?

RELATE IT

5. What does this painting remind you of?
6. What things do you recognize in this painting? What things seem new to you?
7. How is this picture different from real life?
8. What interests you most about this work of art?

ANALYZE IT

9. What do you think is the most important part of this picture?
10. What questions would you ask the artist about this work if she/he were here?

INTERPRET IT

11. What title would you give to this painting? What made you decide on that title?
12. What do you think is going on in this picture? What is this painting about?
13. Why do you think the artist made this painting?

EVALUATE IT

14. What do you think is good about this painting? What is not so good?
15. Do you think the person who painting this did a good or bad job? What makes you think so?
16. What do you think other people say about this work?
17. What grade would you give the artist for this work? How did you arrive at that grade?
18. If money were no object, would you buy this painting?

How will I be scored on this assignment?

CRITERIA	4	3	2	1
Description of Both Works of Art, including evidence of Elements of Art and Principles of Design	At least five details about each work of art	At least four details about each work of art	Three details about each work of art	Two or less details about each work of art
Interpretation is the mood of the painting, to see the work from the artist's point of view	Maintains a clear, well-developed interpretation	Maintains adequate focus	Inconsistent, undeveloped thoughts	Little or no focus on works of art being interpreted
Evaluation is personal judgement of the work. Opinions are based on personal experience as well as informed judgment	Clear, convincing statements, insightful and meaningful commentary with ample supporting concrete details.	Occasionally insightful and meaningful commentary with adequate supporting concrete details	Obvious, superficial, and/or irrelevant commentary. Some supporting concrete details, not all relevant to topic	Weak, off topic, or illogical commentary. Poorly chosen concrete details
Organization & Style	Clear and logical organization with smooth transitions	Clear organization with adequate transitions	Flawed organization with limited transitions	Little or no organization
	Powerful words, used appropriately	Strong word choices	Sufficient word choices	Limited or inappropriate word choices. Slang
Conventions Complete sentences, correct spelling, punctuation and grammar	Uses appropriate spelling, grammar, and capitalization	Generally uses appropriate spelling, grammar, and capitalization	Spelling, grammar, capitalization errors detract from the meaning	Numerous spelling, grammar, capitalization errors detract from the meaning

The Elements of Art and Principles of Design

These are a set of guidelines to keep in mind when considering the impact of a piece of artwork, and descriptions of things that artists and designers work with to create a design, or composition.

The Elements of Art

The Elements are: line, shape, color, texture, space and value.

Line— vertical, horizontal, diagonal, curved, zigzag, bent, straight, interrupted, thick, fuzzy, sharp. Line be two dimensional, like a pencil mark on a paper or it may be three dimensional (wire) or implied(the edge of a shape or form) often it is an outline, contour or silhouette. A curved line is dynamic, ever changing, and more natural, than the straight line, which is more static in character. Direction, while often listed as a separate element, is technically a part of the element “line”. The diagonal line is more dynamic and is quicker to draw the eye. It can be used to create movement and depth. Horizontal lines are more static and tranquil therefore calmer, more passive. Vertical lines evoke strength, power, but less dynamic than diagonals.

Form/Shape—Natural, Geometric. Form is an element of art that is three-dimensional and encloses volume. Cubes, spheres, and cylinders are examples of various forms. Look beyond the obvious shapes of heads, bodies, buildings, etc., and view your subject as abstract shapes. Try to find interlocking shapes. Keep the background shapes in the background, but look for places to connect the foreground and background.

Color— Hue, Chroma, and Value. Hue is the specific name of a color, red, yellow, blue (primary colors - The Color Wheel). Chroma, also called saturation, often called intensity, refers to a colors strength or weakness, bright or grayed. Color Value refers to the lightness or darkness of the color, not to its intensity or to a specific hue.

Texture—refers to the surface quality or “feel” of an object, such as roughness, smoothness, or softness. Actual texture can be felt while simulated textures are implied by the way the artist renders areas of the picture. Real textures: those which can be felt. Implied textures: painted or drawn textures: slick, smooth, rough, velvety, satiny, bumpy

Space/Size—Large, Medium, Small. Proportion or Scale. The comparative relation between things. Employ large, medium, small concept. Size can be used to make things appear nearer and of greater importance. Size relationships can be used to create depth (Perspective).

Value—Value describes the lightness or darkness of a color. Value can be used to create mood, i.e. dark and mysterious, light and airy, gray and dull. High contrast in value moves things forward; low contrast makes them recede. (Aerial Perspective)

The Principles of Design

The Principles of Design are: repetition, balance, emphasis, contrast, and unity.

Balance—the arrangement of elements to create a sense of visual stability. **Formal or symmetrical balance** is when both sides of a work are very similar in their visual weight. **Informal, or asymmetrical balance** is when the two sides of a work are different but still balanced. **Radial balance** is a type of formal balance with parts leading away from or towards a center point, like a bicycle wheel or a petals of a flower.

Contrast—the difference between elements in a piece. For example, a dark color placed right next to a light color, or a soft, furry shape next to a sharp, hard shape.

Movement—the way your eyes move across a piece of art. Movement adds excitement to your work by showing action and directing the viewers eye throughout the picture plane.

Rhythm—**Visual rhythms** are created by repeating things in a regular beat or order. When you look at a work with rhythm, your eyes will jump, or follow from one similar element to the next. **Rhythm** is a type of movement in drawing and painting. It is seen in repeating of shapes and colors. Alternating lights and darks also give a sense of rhythm. **Repetition** is the use of line, color, or a shape in more than one place in a composition. **Pattern** is created through repetitious use of the same element to create an overall design.

Variety—the use of contrasting elements to make an art piece interesting. You can achieve variety by using difference shapes, textures, colors and values in your work.

Unity—the feeling that everything fits together or works like a team. It is achieved in one of the following ways: Repetition- using a shape or color or other element over and over. Simplicity - using one major color or shape to unify a work. Harmony - using related colors, textures or materials. Proximity - placing parts so that they are grouped together, enclosed or clustered into sets. Continuity - aligning edges of shapes so your eye moves from one part to another in a definite order.