

Aesthetic Experience Essay Format

- Attend a visual art event during the current marking period and bring evidence such as receipt for entrance, a postcard or business card, a photograph (if permitted by event), or sign in at the Eagle Nest Openings. (5 pts.)
- At the event walk around and look at the whole space and the artwork for several minutes. Locate the artist and ask questions individually or with class mates-make sure to take your own notes and reflect on the artwork individually
- Write your essay. Staple the evidence to the essay. The essay is due a week after the date you attend the show. It will be -1 each day late up to -5. No essays will be accepted after the final deadline which will be a week before exams.

Heading (-1 if correct heading is not used):

Your Name

Your Teacher's Name (make sure to list all of your art teachers)

Class and Block

Name of Show you attended

Date of Show you attended

OBSERVATION: Describe the whole aesthetic of the overall event through specific and personal observations. These are not questions for the artist. This will be the first section of your essay. (5 pts.)

- Describe the building and room:
- What do you hear, smell, and see? What type of feeling do you get overall from the space and event?
- How do the viewers interact with the artwork?
- Describe the theme of the show/ exhibition/ gallery/ room. What does all the work have in common? (This might be style, material, and subject matter.) How do you know? (Give specifics)

ANALYSIS OF ARTWORK: This is the second part of the essay and should be your own observations about one piece by the artist you speak to and how it fits with the artist's other artwork and the overall event. (5 pts.)

- What piece is most interesting to you? Describe that piece. Some of the information should be listed on a tag or list in the gallery.
- Full artist name and piece title
- What does the artwork look like? (This might include information like the subject matter (still life, object, person, landscape), content or message, the function (use), etc.)
- Why does it interest you most?
- What materials and techniques are used? (*You can ask the artist for some help on this one.*)
- Analyze this particular piece's use of at least one element (form, texture, shape, color, value, line, or space) and at least one principle (balance, pattern, unity, contrast, rhythm, movement, or emphasis). This is a focus on formalism qualities of art. -OR-
- Explain how the piece fits one of the other qualities of art such as being functional, expressing a message, content, or mood (emotionalism), or being very realistic (imitationalism/ literal qualities).

ARTIST INTERACTION: *For the third part of the essay, have a personal interaction with an artist. If an artist is not available write down whatever information the docent shares about the life, work, and inspiration of the artist. Keep accurate and detailed notes on any information they share especially about the piece you will describe in the essay. (5 pts.)*

Ask the artist or docent:

- “Is this piece typical for the artist’s (your) style or is it a new direction?”
- “What makes a work of art or artist successful in your (the artist’s) eyes?”
- “What inspired this work?” OR “What influences your (the artist’s) artwork and how is that seen in the work?”
- Ask the artist or docent: “How did you (the artist) choose to pursue art and what shape does it take in your (the artist’s) life?”

The above questions are just suggestions. You do not have to ask all of them. You can ask the artist your own questions or listen to other information they have to share during an artist talk event or through conversation.

JUDGMENT: *For the final section of your paper write about your judgment/ opinion of this overall event and the particular work/artist discussed. If you are running out of time, this reflection can be done at home. (5 pts.)*

- What did you think about the event overall? Did you enjoy attending the event? OR Would you attend this event again or another similar event? Why?
- Do you think the piece you discussed is a successful work of art? OR Is it aesthetically pleasing to you? Why or why not? OR what do you admire about this artist and his/ her work?
- Was the event/ exhibition/ gallery overall successful? Why or why not?
- *The five points for each written section includes proper organization, use of grammar, spelling, and language flow as well as content specific vocabulary such as technical information about the artwork. The essay should be typed (12 point font, double spaced) or neatly handwritten double-spaced on lined paper.*
- *After your paper is typed (double space, size 12 font, regular margins), check it for flow of language as well as proper use of vocabulary words and errors such as these common ones:
too, to, two/ your, you’re / their, there, they’re/ drawing not drawling/ definitely not defiantly*