

Organizing your Questions

Start with what is easy for the visitors to answer (what they see, materials, content) and then go onto more deductive questions (meaning, artist choices) and conclude with emotional responses and judgments.

Information – what is in it and what did the artist use?

Deduction – what can you figure out by looking and asking questions?

Speculation – what does it all mean? Is it good?

Observe it

Let them look first – no questions needed.

Describe it – *what you actually see, single features, an objective inventory, not interpretation or evaluation*

What do you see in this painting?

Does someone see something else different?

What more can you find?

Are there things that you recognize?

Name and describe what you see (objects, spaces, people, etc)

What else do you see?

Discover as much as you can about this artwork.

Be a detective, name as many things as possible.

Can you identify any objects? Describe them.

Describe the details?

What is this made out of?

How could you describe this painting to someone who cannot see it?

What is going on in this painting?

What else is going on? What else is happening?

Are there people? What are they doing?

What is the first thing you notice when you look at the art?

Describe and analyze it – *visual analysis – how the artist put it together with the elements (balance, movement, proportion, rhythm, unity, contrast, etc)*

Describe the elements _ colors, line, textures, shapes, etc.

What colors are used in this painting?

What color is used the most?

What can you tell me about these colors?

Where does your eye move around the picture?

Do you see pattern or repetition?

Is this picture unified? How does the artist hold the objects together?

How did the artist use line?

Which objects are closer? Further?

What is the most important thing, where is the focus, in this painting? How does the artist achieve this?

Does a color, shape, space or texture give it emphasis?

Is the painting balanced?
How does the artist give a feeling of space? Or distance?
How do the figures or objects relate to each other?

Interpret it *What the meaning, what is the artist trying to say. What we can deduce from what we see. Base what you interpret on what you described above.*

What words describe this painting?

What other words?

What does it mean?

What is this about?

Is there a theme in this painting?

Why did the artist make this?

What is the most important part in this painting?

How do you know that?

When was it made? Why do you think that?

What can we tell about how this person lived? What did you see that makes you say that?

What title would you give this painting? Anyone else?

What do you think this painting is about? What do you see that makes you say that? Anyone else?

What sounds would you hear if you were in the painting?

What is it like inside of this painting? Where would you go? What is it like to live in this painting?

What is happening just outside the painting that the artist let out?

How was this object used? What do you see that makes you say that? How did you arrive at this?

Why did the artist make this painting? What makes you think this?

What are the people saying in the painting?

Is there a recognizable style in this painting?

What mood or feelings are expressed here?

Is this happy, powerful, quiet, loud? What makes you say this?

Do you think there are objects included that give the picture more meaning? (Allegory, symbol, signs, iconography)

Connect or Evaluate it *Does it arouse emotions or feelings? Does it communicate personal ideas or memories? How does it compare to other works of art? Form opinions about this work.*

Does this remind you of anything in your life?

How is this painting like the one we just saw?

How is it different?

How is the painting different from real life?

Do you think this is a good painting?

Why or why not?

Did the artist do a good job? What makes you say that?

Would you recommend this painting to others to see?

Do you want to see more of this artist's work?

Would you like to own this painting?

What should you remember about this painting?

Is the work important because of its meaning? Talent?

How does it compare to the other work of art we discussed?

How is it different to the other work of art we just saw?

What grade would you give this painting?