

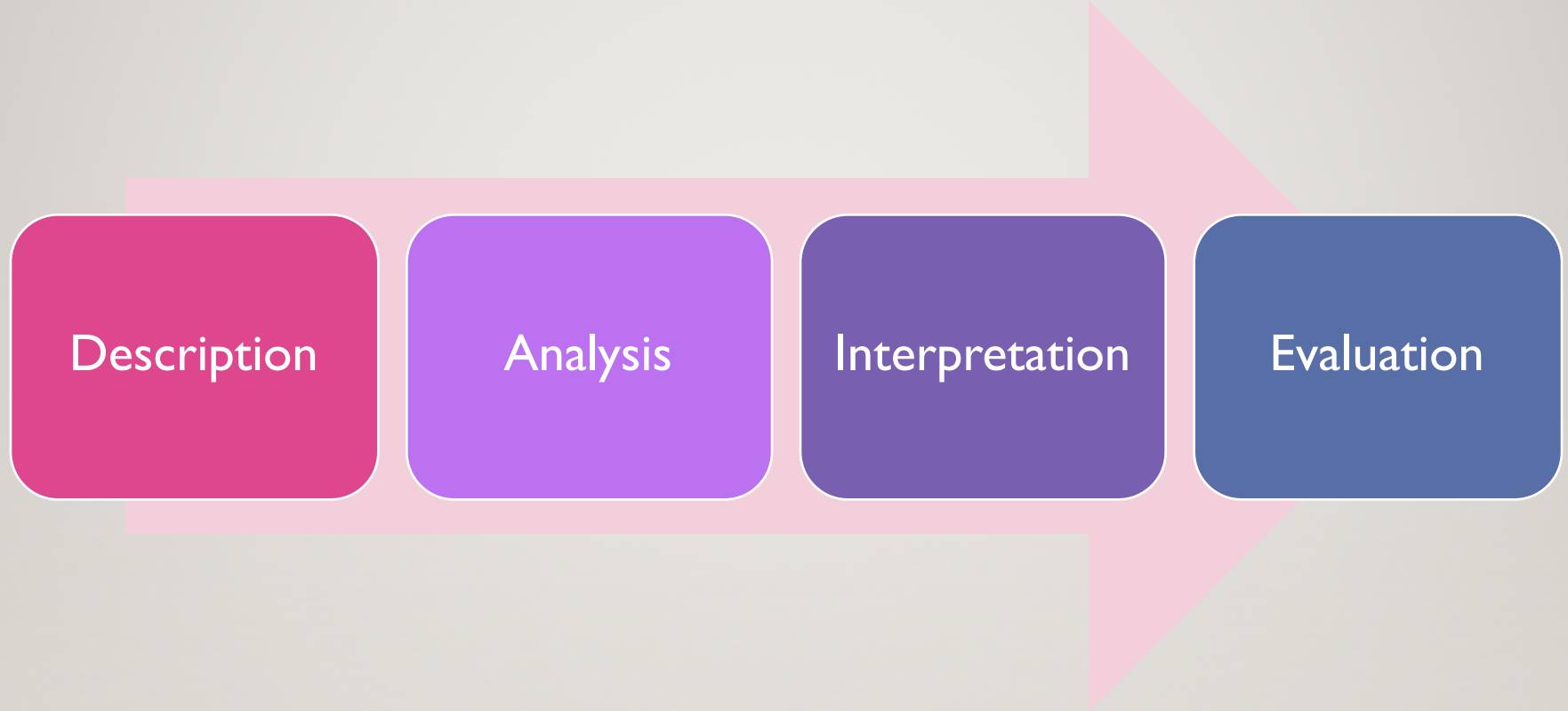
# THE FOUR STEPS OF ART CRITICISM

WRITE 5-10 STATEMENTS ABOUT THIS ARTWORK.

Get image from:

<http://www.njidekaakunyili.com/work/mama-mummy-and-mamma>

# THE FOUR STEPS OF ART CRITICISM



# DISCUSS

What is the value of using the four steps of art criticism when looking at art?



Description

Analysis

Interpretation

Evaluation



## Step One: Description

- Objectively describe the contents and physical characteristics of the artwork
- Do not interpret or discuss the elements and principles of art at this stage



Eugène Delacroix, *Selim and Zuleika*, 1857

## Step Two: Analysis

- Analyze the composition
- Use the elements and principles to guide your looking
- Elements of Art: Line, Shape, Color, Texture, Value, Space, Form
- Principles of Design: Contrast, Emphasis, Unity, Movement, Variety, Pattern, Proportion, Balance



Eugène Delacroix, *Selim and Zuleika*, 1857



## Step Three: Interpretation

- What does the artwork mean? What is the artist trying to say?
- Describe the story, meaning, message, idea, mood, and/or feelings in the artwork.
- Historical and art historical relationships
- Opinions backed up by evidence from the artwork.



Eugène Delacroix, *Selim and Zuleika*, 1857


## Step Four: Evaluation

- Your judgment about the artwork
- What is effective or ineffective in the work?
- What is the artwork's value?
- Opinion supported by evidence in the artwork.



Eugène Delacroix, *Selim and Zuleika*, 1857





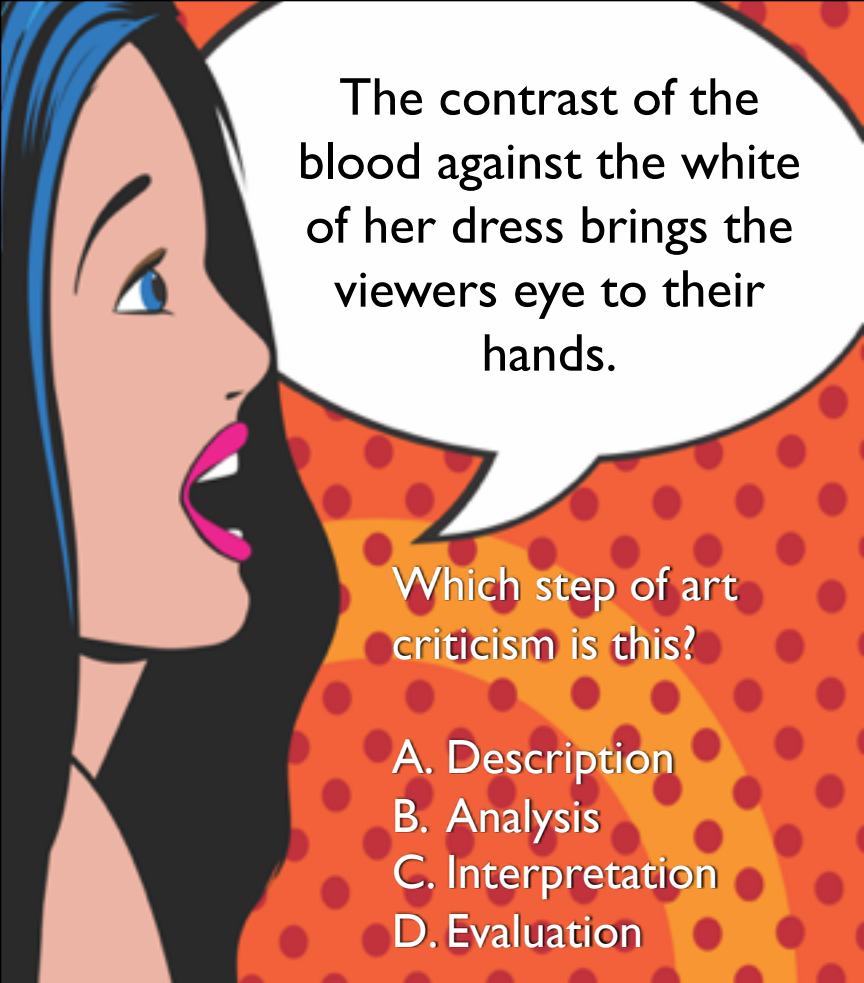
“There are many diagonal lines that move our eye through the painting.”

Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



Frida Kahlo, *The Two Fridas (Las dos Fridas)*, 1939, oil on canvas, 67-11/16 x 67-11/16 inches (Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City)



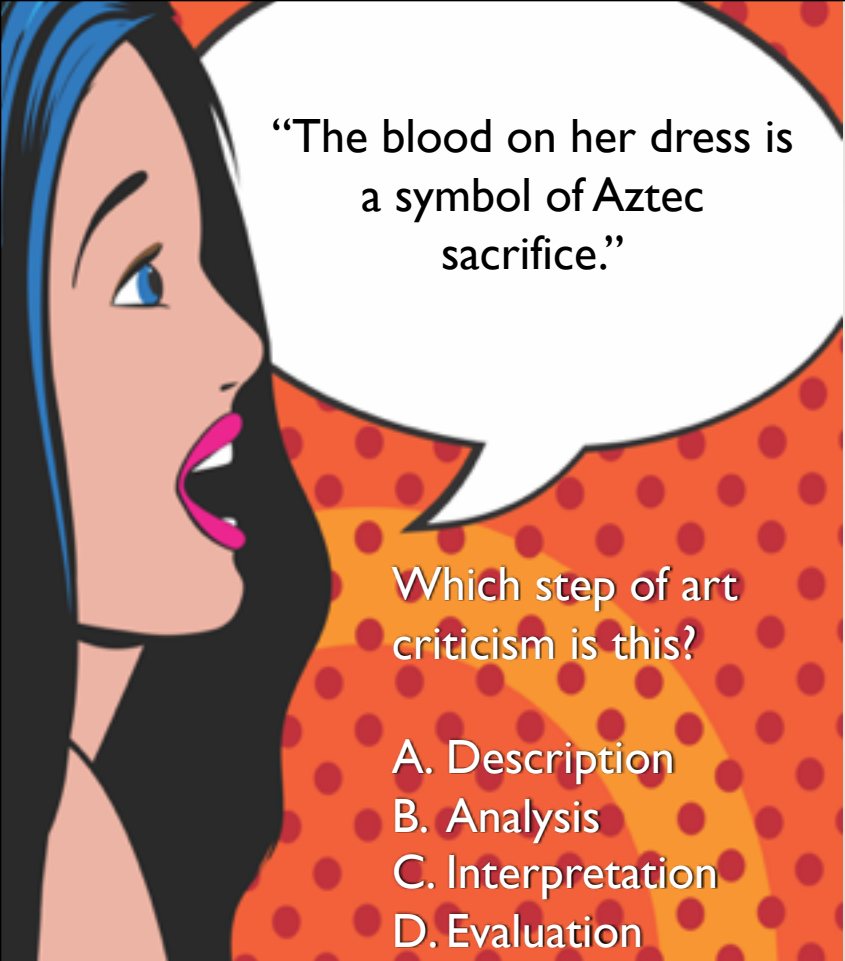
The contrast of the blood against the white of her dress brings the viewers eye to their hands.

Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation







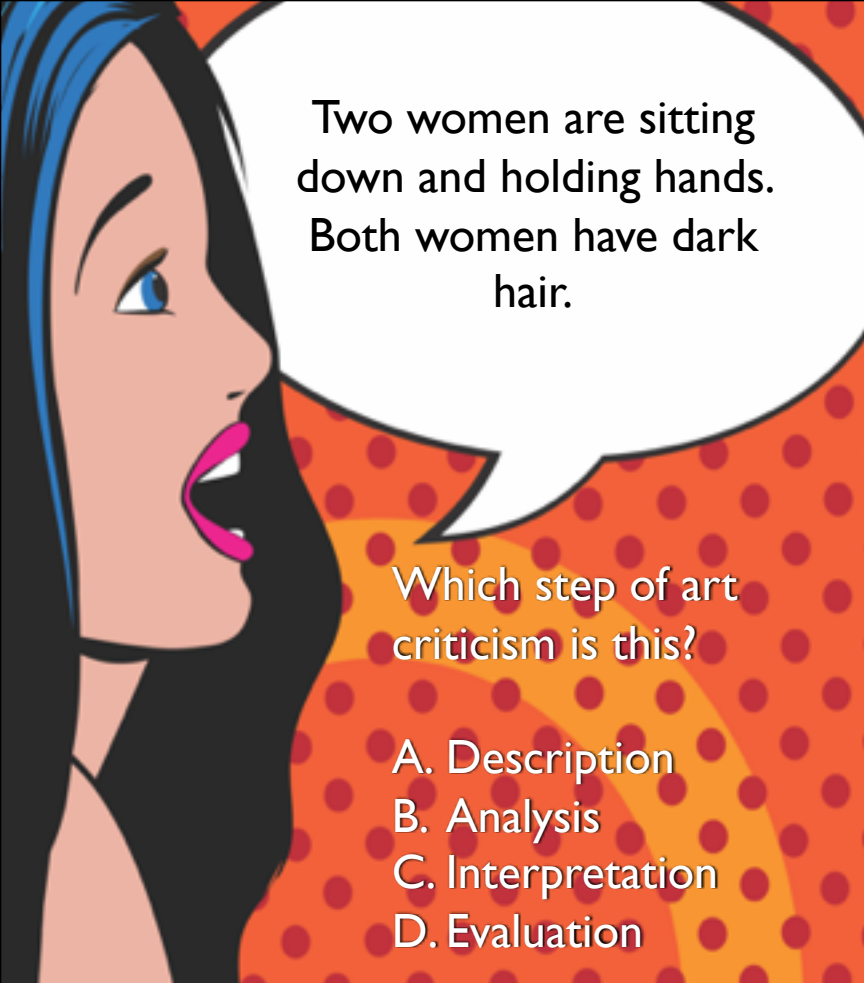
“The blood on her dress is a symbol of Aztec sacrifice.”

Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



Frida Kahlo, *The Two Fridas (Las dos Fridas)*, 1939, oil on canvas, 67-11/16 x 67-11/16 inches (Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City)



Two women are sitting down and holding hands. Both women have dark hair.


Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



Frida Kahlo, *The Two Fridas (Las dos Fridas)*, 1939, oil on canvas, 67-11/16 x 67-11/16 inches (Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City)






“This art was painted with style and talent and represents the artists’ feelings and what she was goin through”.

Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



Frida Kahlo, *The Two Fridas (Las dos Fridas)*, 1939, oil on canvas, 67-11/16 x 67-11/16 inches (Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City)



“The dark stormy sky shows us Frida’s mood. She’s feels angry, sad and heartbroken.”

Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



Frida Kahlo, *The Two Fridas (Las dos Fridas)*, 1939, oil on canvas, 67-11/16 x 67-11/16 inches (Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City)





Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



“The colors and lines of this artwork make me feel sad. The swirls remind me of the way my chest feels when I am anxious.”



Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



“This is my favorite painting. It is so beautiful!”





Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



“The lines flow up the Cyprus tree through the swirls in the sky then back down to the mountains which then return to the Cyprus tree.”



Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



“I want to buy a poster of this and hang it on my wall.”



“There are 4 guys gathered around a table. They are gesturing with their hands. One guy is standing up.”

Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



Caravaggio, *Supper at Emmaus*, 1601

“I can tell this was painted in the Baroque time period because of the intense light and shadow the artist used.

Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



Caravaggio, *Supper at Emmaus*, 1601



“The guys are disheveled looking. They have mismatched clothes, holes in their sleeves, and they are not clean-shaven.”

Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



Caravaggio, *Supper at Emmaus*, 1601

“The artist used foreshortening to make it look like the limbs are coming out at us.”

Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



Caravaggio, *Supper at Emmaus*, 1601



“The composition is closed-in and intimate. The dramatic lighting pulls us in even more.”

Which step of art criticism is this?

- A. Description
- B. Analysis
- C. Interpretation
- D. Evaluation



Caravaggio, *Supper at Emmaus*, 1601

# PRACTICE

- Go back to your writing from the beginning of class.
- Mark each statement you wrote about the painting with one of the following notations.
  - D for Description
  - A for Analysis
  - I for Interpretation
  - E for Evaluation