Conversations

If the people or objects in a work of art could talk, how would they sound and what would they say?

1. PERCEIVE

Work through the PERCEIVE card to carefully investigate your artwork.

2. CONSIDER

Who or what are the main "characters" in the image? These might be figures (people) or any other objects you see. Writing lets us give voice to the human, the non-human, and even the invisible!

Select two interesting characters connected to your artwork and imagine you are listening to the conversation between them. How are they related? Family? Friends? Enemies? Strangers? What would they be talking about? What are they seeing, thinking, feeling, and wondering about? What would your characters' voices sound like? What kind of words would they use?

3. CREATE

Write a conversation between the characters in the artwork you have chosen. Getting the voice right is an important aspect of creating a character that feels real. In a painting or photograph there always are clues to a character's personality; clues that help in imagining and creating a "voice" for that person or thing.

When writers create characters they do so, in part, through diction. Diction is simply "word choice" and a character's voice (what they say) must fit the character. An elderly character, for example, might not look or sound like a character that is only three years old. Use quotation marks and include details that you observed in the artwork.

4. REFLECT

Why did you choose the work you did? How did you decide which characters to focus on and develop? Why did you give the characters the voices and relationship that you did?