

Images and Issues

Can you analyze the messages communicated in an artwork and write about them persuasively?

1. PERCEIVE

Work through the PERCEIVE card to carefully investigate your artwork.

2. CONSIDER

Read the information on the image and if available the EXPLORE MORE card. What is the subject of your chosen artwork? What is it about? Is there a bigger issue behind it? How do you think the artist feels about this subject or this issue? List everything you see that supports your idea.

What is the focus of the artwork? What details are you drawn to? Why? Are your emotions triggered? How? How is your attention focused? How are you drawn in? Do you think the message changes for different audiences? Why or why not? What questions does the image raise for you?

3. CREATE

Write a short essay that analyzes the message in your selected image. Start with a general description of the work and then a statement of the issue or subject that the artist is presenting. Support your statement by pointing out the specific details the artist has included that add to the persuasive power of the work.

Comment on what part of the image you think most effectively communicates the artist's message. Give good, detailed reasons. Comment on what parts of the image are less persuasive along with your reasoning. Close with your reaction to the artist's message.

4. REFLECT

Does your essay describe the artwork well? Does it support statements with observed details and information? What kinds of persuasive images do you see everyday? What makes them effective? Do you think images are powerful enough to change "hearts and minds?" How are images controlled these days? Can you think of examples?