

1. Subjective Reaction:

2. Snapshot:

### 3. Formal Analysis Chart

FORM	FUNCTION
Size/Scale:	
Line:	
Color:	
Composition:	
Materials:	
Form:	
Light/tone:	
Texture/Pattern:	

Chart adapted from Jesse Day, *Line Color Form: The Language of Art and Design* (New York: Allworth Press, 2013), 77.

## How to use this form.

1. Take in the work as a whole. Note your sensations (“subjective reaction”) but put them aside. You’ll come back to them later.
2. Create a brief “snapshot” that describes, in a sentence or two, what it is you’re looking at in its most basic terms.
3. What do you see? Look at the work in greater detail. Consider the qualities of color, line, form, etc. and use describing words.

What colors? Are they warm or cool? Are they harmonious or do they clash?

What shapes? Are they rounded, amorphous, rectangular, etc.?

What materials? (Paint, marble, stone, metal, fabric. etc.)

Are there words, numbers or letters?

Are there any recognizable figures or is the work abstract, or non-figurative?

Notice line if it exists. Describe it in detail. (jagged, smooth, curved, straight, etc.)

Is the work three-dimensional or flat? A painting or a sculpture?

Is there a sense of a deep space or a shallow one?

How is light functioning in the work? Is it very dark? Lots of contrast?

## Think About Your Thinking.

- Support evaluative statements with visual evidence.

Ex. “I see a *violent* storm,” “She is sleeping *peacefully*” or “The three figures look like *soldiers*” are examples of statements in which a conclusion has been drawn based on visual evidence. What do you *see* that makes you say that? How do you know what you know?

- What more do you want to ask? What is still unclear for you?
- What does the work mean? Revisit your initial reactions. Have they changed? Can you note which of the formal elements you observed made you feel that way?