



Write Now: Let's Write About Art

A full day at the Galleries

Grades 6 through 8
Visual Arts, Literacy

Programme description

Write Now: Let's Write About Art is a programme designed for students in Grades 6 through 8 that combines aspects of Language (6 +1 Traits of Writing) and Visual Arts curricula.

Part 1 - Morning:

Learn how to look and describe what you see, think and feel: Students engage in team-based guessing games using images of artworks.

Find your own voice: Using their own writing and articles by professional art critics, students compare and contrast different approaches to writing about art (style, voice, content).

Part 2 - Afternoon:

Discovering an exhibition: Through a guided discussion with an animateur, students discover a contemporary art exhibition and learn about the artistic, historical and social contexts behind the artworks. They are also introduced to the range of didactic materials that are an integral part of art exhibitions and consider how these may be of use to a critic.

Art critique: Students write a review of the entire exhibition or of an artwork of their choice, and then experiment with basic editing methods. The reviews are then compiled and made available to other gallery visitors.

Learning goals

This programme encourages students to develop their art-viewing skills by articulating what they see in writing. Students learn different techniques to analyse form and content, to describe artworks with appropriate terminology, and to build a personal writing style and voice. Through the exploration of contemporary artworks, students discuss and write about aesthetic issues and ideas related to current affairs and culture.

Curriculum links

Visual Arts and Literacy

Critical questions

- Why write about art?
- Who creates the meaning of an artwork? Is it the artist, the curator, the viewer or the critic?
- Do the artist's intentions limit the meaning of the work?
- How do you use an active voice in writing about art?
- How do you inform, provoke and convey a message through writing?

Write Now: Let's Write About Art is a programme developed in collaboration with the Halton District School Board through consultation with Phil Davison, Literacy Consultant.