**How to Complete a Contextual Analysis of a Work**

**in AP Art History**

**Skill A:** **Describe** contextual elements of a work of art (or group of related works of art). Include the following criteria:

* Function
* Context
* Siting or physical context
* Subject matter
* Reception

*What is the purpose of this work?*

*Who made it?*

*Who commissioned it and why?*

*When and where was it made?*

*What is it about?*

*Who was it made for?*

*Who used it and how was it used?*

*How did people experience this work?*

**Expectations:**

1. Write in complete sentences.

2. Be mindful of proper grammar and mechanics.

3. Use the language of the discipline or appropriate AP Art History vocabulary.

**Skill B:** **Explain** how the possible intent, purpose, and/or **function** shape the creation or meaning of a work of art (or group of related works of art):

*What is the purpose/intent of this work?*

*What is the function of this work?*

*Why does the purpose, intent, or function matter? How do they affect the work?*

**Expectations:**

1. Write in complete sentences.

2. Be mindful of proper grammar and mechanics.

3. Use the language of the discipline or appropriate AP Art History vocabulary.

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**in AP Art History Continued…**

**Skill C:** **Explain** how and/or why **context** influences artistic decisions about form, style, materials, content, and/or function in the creation or meaning of a work of art (or group of related works of art):

*What was happening in the artist’s world when it was made?*

*What was happening historically?*

*How did what was happening affect the artist’s decision regarding form, style, materials, content, or function?*

*Who and what influenced the work?*

**Expectations:**

1. Write in complete sentences.

2. Be mindful of proper grammar and mechanics.

3. Use the language of the discipline or appropriate AP Art History vocabulary.

**Skill D: Explain** how artistic decisions about form, style, materials, content, function, and/or context of a work of art (or group of related works of art) elicit a response or shape its **reception**.

*How did what was happening in the artist’s world (and/or historically) affect the audience for this work?*

*How did what was happening affect the response to this work?*

*Who and what did the work influence?*

**Expectations**

1. Write in complete sentences.

2. Be mindful of proper grammar and mechanics.

3. Use the language of the discipline or appropriate AP Art History vocabulary.