

Pre-Visit Activity

Title: <i>The Written Word</i>
Subjects: <i>Language Arts and Visual Arts</i>
Grade: <i>7-12</i>
Time: <i>Approx. one hour</i>

Introduction:

In this lesson students will have an opportunity to view the portraits of Rudolph Nureyev painted by James Wyeth. They will choose one or two to write about. We've listed several focuses for writing. You may use this activity several times.

Objectives:

The student will:

- view slides of portraits in the slide packet
- choose a slide to analyze
- write about the slide, with the guidelines you set

Materials:

slides # 1-15, slide projector, paper, pencils

Vocabulary:

artist statement
critique
narrative
poem
persuasive letter

Motivation:

Present a slide show to students. Let students have at least three minutes to look at each slide and write their observations. You may want to prompt students with questions such as:

- What do you see?
- What immediately jumps out at you and what took time to observe?
- What do you think the artist was thinking when s/he created this work?
- What interests you most about this work?

Procedure:

After students have had a chance to view and write observations about each work... Let them see the slides one more time. This

time ask them to pick one or two slides they would like to focus on.

Ask students to:

- write a **persuasive letter** to encourage someone to visit the museum to see the artwork.
- write a **poem** in response to the artwork
- compare and contrast two art works from the slide show
- write a **narrative** of what is happening in the scene
- predict what might happen next, or what happened before
- write a **critique** of the art for a local newspaper
- **artist statement** - pretend you are the artist and describe the art work and what inspired you to create it
- research the artist who created the artwork
- create a work of art in response to the artwork
- write a dialogue between artist and model

Evaluation:

Did students:

- view slides in the slide packet
- choose a slide to analyze
- write about the slide, with the guidelines you set

Interdisciplinary Connections:

Ask students to:

Mathematics, Science and Social Studies:

- research the time period in which the art work was created and write about what other mathematical, scientific or cultural changes were taking place

Visual and Performing Arts:

- write, direct and perform a play with students taking on the roles of different

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artists and describe and critique one another's art work