

Art: The Formal Elements of Art

The Formal Elements of Art and the main areas you will be focusing on in high school. These are fundamental to creating art and the more you know and learn about each one the better your art skills and knowledge will become.

You are going to use these to complete a task on the following page but before you do you need to know what the Formal Elements of Art are.

Match the definitions by drawing a line from the definition to the Formal element you think it belongs to. If you need help you can look up the definition in a dictionary or online.

SHAPE

PATTERN

COLOUR

There are two main types, Primary and Secondary. By mixing two Primary together we get a secondary.

A mark or path left on a surface by an implement e.g. a pencil. It can take many forms such as diagonal, wavy or curved.

The surface quality of something. The way something looks or feels.

An area enclosed by a line. It could be just an outline or it could be shaded in.

A design that is created by repeating lines, shapes, tones or colours. Can be found in nature like animal fur or manmade like a design on fabric.

Means the lightness and darkness of something. This could be a tint or shade to show how light or dark a colour appears.

LINE

tone

TEXTURE

Art: Analysing art using the formal elements

Analysing art is very important to help you understand what an artwork is about. Most of the most famous artworks have an interesting story behind them or are about interesting things whether they are fictional or from real life.

On this page are two artworks that I want you to analyse using the following questions.

Colour: What types of colour has been used? Are they Primary or Secondary or both. Are the colours bright or dull?

Tone: How has the artist used tone in their paint? Have they used highlights and shadows? Are these strong or

Line: How has line been used? Are they clean, smooth, visible, jagged geometric.

Shape: What shapes can you see in the artwork? Are they geometric, organic or are there a mix of both.

Texture: How would you describe the texture in the painting? Does the paint itself look textured? What about the texture of the clothes?

Pattern: Are there patterns in the paintings? Of so where are they? Are they on the clothes of the women or maybe in the background?

Extension: Write a few sentences about what you think each artwork is about or what the story is behind the women in each picture. Who are they? Why were they painted? How do you think they are feeling?



Girl with a Pearl Earring Painted by Johannes Vermeer in 1665



Weeping Woman painted by Pablo Picasso in 1937

Now for some art! Now you have analysed these two artworks you can now create some artworks of your very own to test out your use of the formal elements. I want you to redraw and colour 'Girl with a Pearl Earring' in the style and using the colours of the 'Weeping Woman'. Then I want you to draw and colour the 'Weeping Woman' in the style of 'Girl with the Pearl Earring'.

Have fun and remember what you create will be your own original artwork.