

Critical Response Format

PURPOSE: To create a dialogue between the artist and the audience that is non-threatening and positive.

OBJECTIVE: To assist the artist in making their art the best that it can be.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AUDIENCE:

1. Don't bring your own agenda to the work you are responding to.
2. Have a desire for the artist to do her/his best work.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ARTIST:

1. Be honest and open.
2. Be in a place where they can question their own work.

PROCESS STEPS:

1. Statements of Meaning: The audience states what was exciting, compelling, meaningful, memorable, evocative.

- This lets the artist know how the audience is experiencing the art work.
- This establishes a positive discussion grounded in what is working and what is effective.
- This gets the audience participating and the artist listening.

2. Artist asks Questions: The artist poses questions and the audience answers.

- Allows the artist to establish the scope of the conversation, where they are focusing their energy, or seeking solutions.

3. Neutral Questions from Audience: Audience asks questions, phrased neutrally and the artist responds.

- This broadens the conversation.
- Engages the artist in talking about their work, intentions, motivations, and background thinking.
- Engages the audience in analyzing their opinions in order to phrase them as neutral questions.

4. Audience asks permission to express opinions about the art work. If artist accepts, audience state opinions.

- Allows the artist some control over what opinions they choose to hear.
- Allows the audience to express the full range of their experience of the art work.