Describing, Interpreting, Judging

References

Criticism The act or art of analyzing and judging the quality of a literary or artistic work
Critique The art or practice of criticism

Describing Art
— verbal pointing so that features of a work of art will be noticed and appreciated
— data gathering process
— internal descriptive information:
  subject matter
  medium
  form
— external descriptive information (context):
  facts about artist
  time artwork was made
  medium used

Interpreting Art
— artworks have “aboutness” and demand interpretation
— interpretations are persuasive arguments
  the object of interpretations are artworks, not artists
  critics rely on evidence from observation about the artwork, the world and the artist
  interpretation are not so much absolutely right, but more or less reasonable, convincing, enlightening, and informative
  interpretations can be judged by coherence, correspondence, and inclusiveness
— no single interpretation is exhaustive of the meaning of an artwork
  the meaning of an artwork may be different from its significance to the viewer
  an artwork is not necessarily about what the artist wanted it to be about
  good interpretations invite us to see for ourselves and to continue on our own

Judging Art
— judgments are informed critical arguments about the value of a work of art
  judgments are based on definable criteria
  judgments without reasons are uninformative and nonresponsive
— critics judge art for an audience of readers, not for the artist of the work.
— critics wish to persuade the readers to appreciate (or not appreciate) the work as they do and for their reasons

Describing, Interpreting and Judging
is about making decisions, providing reasons and evidence for those decisions and formatting arguments for ones conclusions

Descriptions- gather and present internal and external descriptive information
Interpretations- seek to determine what the works are about
Judgements- seek to determine how good the work is or isn’t and why and by what criteria