

**Criticism (aka Critiquing)**

Characterized by thoroughness and a reference to principles (standards of truth, beauty, etc), involving the enquiry and objective analysis and evaluation of an issue in order to form a judgement.

Or

**Criticism (aka being Judgemental)**

Inclined to find fault; marked by a tendency to find and call attention to errors and flaws; quick with opinion often based on assumptions; to rashly pass judgement.

<p><b>1. It's ELEMENTAL, my Dear.</b> Just the facts ma'am. Start out purely objective. ELEMENTS</p>	<p><b>2. Let's get RELATIONAL!</b> Note the relationships between elements = principles of design at play PRINCIPLES of DESIGN</p>
<p><b>3. ANALYZE it, to death.</b> both Method AND Message. Was the Method (style, medium) and Message (communication) clear (skilled) or unclear (unskilled)?</p>	<p><b>4. Just JUDGE it.</b> Like it? Hate it? Why and why not? Think of skill and message as two different things.</p>

**1. THE ELEMENTS**

<p><b>Elements of POETRY</b>                  Sounds: alliteration, assonance, consonance, onomatopoeia                  Repetition (patterns)                  Voice and audience                  Form (haiku, ballad, sonnet, free verse, etc)</p>		<p>Imagery (senses)                  Figurative language (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, idiom, personification)                  Symbolism                  Connotation/Denotation                  Rhyme/near rhyme Meter/rhythm                  Word order/placement</p>	<p>Stanza/verse                  Mood (reader's feelings) &amp; tone (writer's feelings towards the subject)                  Harmony                  Rhythm</p>
<p><b>Elements of MUSIC</b>                  Texture                  Tempo                  Timbre                  Pitch                  Duration                  Structure                  Dynamics                  Pulse</p>	<p><b>Elements of Theatre Arts</b>                  Actors                  Text (or indent)                  Clothing                  Makeup, Lighting</p>	<p>Hearing (public)                  Choreography                  Voice in over (background voice)                  Mood/tone                  SoundDirector</p>	<p><b>Elements of ART</b>                  Texture                  Space                  Harmony                  Rhythm                  Mood/tone                  Line                  Colour                  Shape                  Form                  Value</p>
<p><b>Elements of a Novel</b>                  Voice (point of view)                  Plot                  Theme                  Narration                  Dialogue</p>		<p>Setting                  Character development (protagonist, antagonist, minor)                  Style                  Exposition                  Conflict/climax</p>	<p>Conflict resolutions                  Denouement                  Syntax                  Imagery                  Symbolism                  Mood/tone</p>
<p><b>Elements of Dance</b>                  The Body (is the paintbrush of the piece)                  Action: locomotor and non-locomotor (axial)</p>		<p>Space: level, direction, place, orientation, pathway, size, relationships                  Time: clock time, relational, metered, free rhythm                  Energy: attack, weight, flow, quality</p>	

## 2. RELATIONSHIPS.

The application of the elements to the principles of composition

“Good” design moves towards a harmonious whole.

UNITY  
MOVEMENT  
BALANCE  
RHYTHM

FOCUS  
CONTRAST  
PATTERN  
PROPORTION

## 3. ANALYSIS.

This is still mostly objective and based on your observation of what you now know about the art and the artist. Is it skilled or unskilled?

**Describe the SKILL of the Method**  
(style, medium)

Is the piece made in a skilled or unskilled manner?

**Describe the SKILL of the COMMUNICATION Message**  
(meaning)

What does the message appear to be? Was it clearly or unclearly

## 4. JUDGEMENT.

You have now earned the right to judge this piece. Always define the reasons why you like or dislike it. And whether it is the skill or the meaning you are liking or disliking. YOUR value system is a part of this. This is where your core beliefs, preferences and opinions come into it.

End note: There is an assumption here that there IS A **STANDARD of beauty.** ie. a piece can be made in an attractive way where the standards above are successfully managed but it can also have a very clear and negative meaning. That meaning might communicate truth or it may communicate lies. It is up to you whether or not you like or dislike it but if you like pieces that do not meet the standards of harmony, you need to accept that you are deconstructionist in philosophy, not even modern or

## TRY IT OUT!

1. ELEMENTS	2. RELATIONSHIP (principles)
3. ANALYZE message and method	4. I like, dislike, because...