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**Critical Review Piece #1: Art Outline (20 Points)**

**Introduction:**

Announce the artist’s name and the title of the piece (if there is one), and briefly explain the topic of the work. Present the purpose of the piece and summarize the main theme or message of the work.

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**Thesis:**

Conclude your introduction with a brief statement of your evaluation (see above) of the art. This can be a positive or negative evaluation, or, as is often the case, a mixed response.

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**Body Paragraphs:**

Answer the question: **How Well Did He Do It**? This should be a balanced discussion and evaluation of the strengths, weaknesses, and notable features of the piece. Remember to base your discussion on the specific criteria of art (see above). Good reviews also include your knowledge of other subjects or topics related to this piece of art (remember to reference if you do this).

Sequence your discussion from the most important to the least important conclusions you’ve made about the art. Areas to consider:

1. If there are strengths and weaknesses to the work, you have to decide overall what your judgment is. For example, if overall you think that Banksy was effective at communicating a theme of battle of the sexes with a few weaknesses in character consistency, start with what is good and concede and explain the limitations.
2. You can include recommendations for how the work can be improved in terms of ideas, research, approach, theories, frameworks, theme, etc. While this is your opinion, it should be grounded in not only your evaluation of the piece but your knowledge of others like it.

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**Analysis (keep in mind that this can be its own separate paragraph, or it can be tied in with the previous paragraphs; whatever flows best and works):**

Now is the hard part: **Was it worth doing?** This is the analysis. Here, in a body paragraph, you explain the value of the piece on you as an individual and/or society as a whole. Does it cause you to change your way of thinking? Does it cause society to consider a larger truth? Does it shock, inform, criticize, question and is what it’s doing of value? Why?

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**Conclusion:**

This can be short. Here’s how you structure your conclusion:

1. Restate your overall opinion of the work in a new way
2. Briefly present recommendations to either improve the work or for others to take in the work
3. Reframe your main idea with your overall impression after examining it in detail
4. Finish with a statement of power that “punches” your message and leaves the reader considering your words.

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