Writing about Artists

Form – Looking at the formal elements – What does it look like?
- Colour – How is it used? What effect does it have? How is it organised? How is light shown?
- Shapes – What kind of shapes can you see? Does this affect the composition? Do they make the work realistic or abstract?
- Mark Making – How does the use of Mark making effect the work?
- Textures – What kind of textures are used? What effect does this have?
- Scale – How big is the work? What effect does this have on the viewer?

Content – Looking at the subject of the work!
- What is it? What is it about? What is happening? What’s the story?
- Is the artwork realistic or abstract?
- What event is taking place?
- What has just happened? What will happen next?
- Have any parts been exaggerated or distorted? Is so why?
- What is the theme of the work?
- Is there a main character? Who is it? How do they affect the work?
- What is the relationship between the different elements or characters
- What is in the background? Do you think it’s important?

Mood – Looking at the communication of moods and feelings
- How does the work make you feel? Why do you feel like this?
- What emotions are being conveyed?
- Does the colour, texture or theme of the work affect your mood?
- What time of day is it? How can you tell?
- How has light been used? Does it make you see things differently?

REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR OWN OPINION: DO WHAT DO THINK? WHAT EFFECT DOES IT HAVE ON YOU?

Context – Taking a wider view
- When was it made? Who made it? Who was the work made for?
- What do you know about the artist?
- Does the work relate to the social or political history of the time?
- Does the work link to any other areas of your knowledge?
- Is the work connected to a wider art movement (e.g. Impressionists)
- Can you link the work to others arts of the period such as film, music, or literature?

Landscape, portrait, Still Life, Journey, Moment, Memory, Dream, Event, Historic, Religious, Surreal, Fantasy, Abstract, Meaning, Message, Expression

Quiet, Contemplative, Thoughtful, Hopeful, Peaceful, Celebratory, Reflective, Aggressive, Depressing, Confrontational, Graphic, Stark

Context, Patron, Artist, Biography, Political, Subversive, Historical, Institutional, Art movement, Related, Comparatively, Genre, Trend, Enquiry, Ground-breaking, Original, Repetitive, Style, Pioneer, Collective