

## CLARIFYING THE CRITIQUING PROCESS

# CRITIQUE RE-WRITE

Giving students examples of good and bad critiques can help them identify the skills needed for properly writing and speaking about artwork.

**AGE:**

Grades 9 – 12

**TIME:**

Approximately 1 (50 minute) class period

**DIRECTIONS:**

- ◆ Prepare a poorly written critique, using the four-part critiquing method.
- ◆ Students will read and re-write the critique.
  
- ◆ Things to think about:
  - Is all information about the artwork included?
  - What else can make the critique more detailed?

**MODIFICATIONS:**

Read poorly written critique out loud as a class

Have students work in small groups rather than individually

Have a student write a poor critique, then hand to another classmate to edit and re-write.



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## POORLY WRITTEN CRITIQUE EXAMPLE

### DESCRIPTION

Artist: Mary Cassatt  
Title: Summertime  
Medium: Oil on canvas  
Size: 100.7 X 81.3 cm  
Date: 1894  
Movement: Impressionism  
Subject: Mother and daughter on a boat during the summer

### ANALYSIS

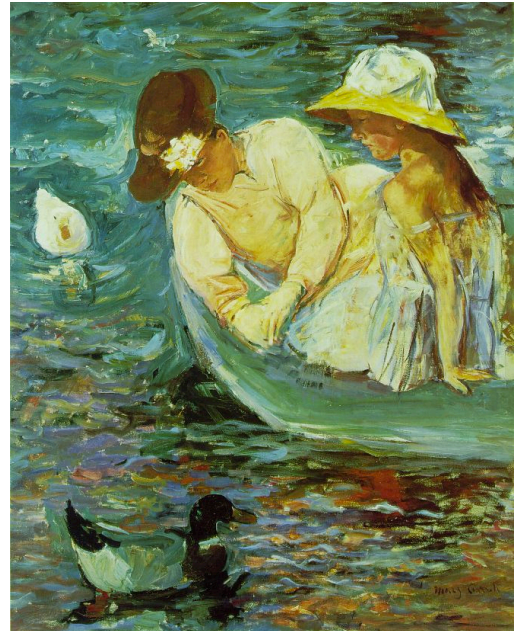
I like the colors in this image. They are nice. The ducks are good the people are good too. They look real. There are a lot of splotches of paint in the water.

### INTERPRETATION

This is a picture of two people on a boat with ducks. The boat is on the water.

### EVALUATION

This painting is really, really good! It is so pretty! Mary Cassatt was sooooo talented! I like her! ☺

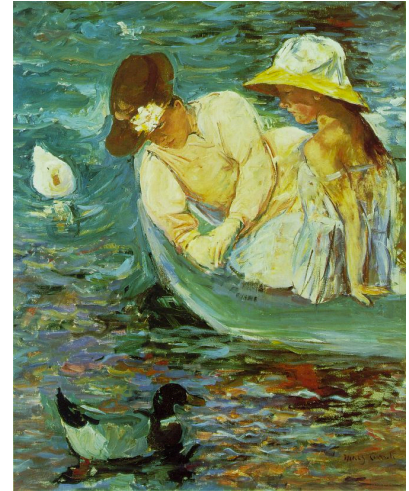


# CLARIFYING THE CRITIQUING PROCESS

## RE-WITTEN CRITIQUE EXAMPLE

### DESCRIPTION

Artist: Mary Cassatt  
Title: Summertime  
Medium: Oil on canvas  
Size: 100.7 X 81.3 cm  
Date: 1894  
Movement: Impressionism  
Subject: Mother and daughter on a boat during the summer



### ANALYSIS

The focal point of this painting is the boat with the mother and daughter located in the upper right side of the composition. The Mallard duck on the bottom left and the white duck on the top left are both moving towards the boat, directing the viewer's eye toward the women. Mary Cassatt mainly used an analogous color palette of light greens and yellows with a few splashes of darker reds and browns for contrast. The analogous colors create harmony throughout the painting. The repetition of loose marks of color, create texture and movement in the water. The consistency of color used throughout the painting and the repetition of mark making unify the composition. The shapes of the women are clearly defined and realistically proportioned. The women are emphasized with a warm yellow color and a subtle, sketchy contour line. The forms of the figures are developed 3-dimensionally with values of color. The composition is arranged in the foreground of the picture with a little depth. There is a space between the women and the Mallard duck occupied by a reflection.

### INTERPRETATION

The two women appear to be a mother and daughter. The mother is leaning over the boat looking into the water. The daughter is dressed in a sundress with a big sunhat, showing that it is a warm summer day. The mother is properly dressed in a long sleeve dress. The daughter is dress in the style of a young girl, looser and less formal than the mom. They appear to be feeding the ducks and enjoying the summer day. They also seem to be looking at their reflection in the water. Maybe the mother is thinking about how time passes as she looks at her reflection compared to her daughter's younger image. Maybe they are gazing at something under the water, like a fish. Whatever they are doing, the picture is peaceful and calm.

### EVALUATION

This is a successful Impressionist painting by Mary Cassatt. The composition encourages the viewer to move around the image. The image clearly sets a calm mood of relaxation. The warmth of the figures, bathed in golden yellow, successfully illustrates the warm summer day. The women are very well executed and realistic.

