

Vincent Van Gogh--The Starry Night (1889) Painting Analyze

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1: Visual elements and Principles of design

Students should consider the relationship *between* visual elements (line, shape, form, value/tone, color/hue, texture/surface, space) and how these interact to form design principles (such as unity, variety, emphasis, dominance, balance, symmetry, harmony, movement, contrast, rhythm, pattern, scale, proportion) to communicate meaning.

Ex: Starry night composition, use of color, use of light, brushstroke, What is the overall **mood** (i.e positive; energetic; excitement; serious; sedate; peaceful; calm; melancholic; tense; uneasy; uplifting; foreboding; calm; turbulent)? tone, emotion...etc.

2: Genre

Does the artwork fall within an established **genre** (i.e. historical; mythical; religious; portraiture; landscape; still life; fantasy; architectural)?

Ex: Many art scholars believe there is a hidden religious meaning to *Starry Night*. In the painting, the moon and stars in the night sky are surrounded by large halos of light while a church steeple stands out above the smaller, less detailed buildings in the town below.

3: Objects, Places or scenes

Are there any recognisable **objects, places or scenes**? How are these presented (i.e. idealized; realistic; indistinct; hidden; distorted; exaggerated; stylized; reflected; reduced to simplified/minimalist form; primitive; abstracted; concealed; suggested; blurred or focused)?

Ex: Beneath the sky sits a hushed village of humble houses surrounding a church.

4: Abstract Elements

What kind of **abstract elements** are shown (i.e. bars; shapes; splashes; lines)? Have these been derived from or inspired by realistic forms? Are they the result of spontaneous, accidental creation or careful, deliberate arrangement?

Ex: Stars are painted in a circular form, rather than the typical pointed star form. This results in the painting looking consistent as the stars and the

clouds are both circular shapes. It also has intensely swirling patterns that seem to roll across its surface like waves.

5: Action, Narrative or Story

Does the artwork communicate an **action, narrative or story** (i.e. historical event or illustrate a scene from a story)?

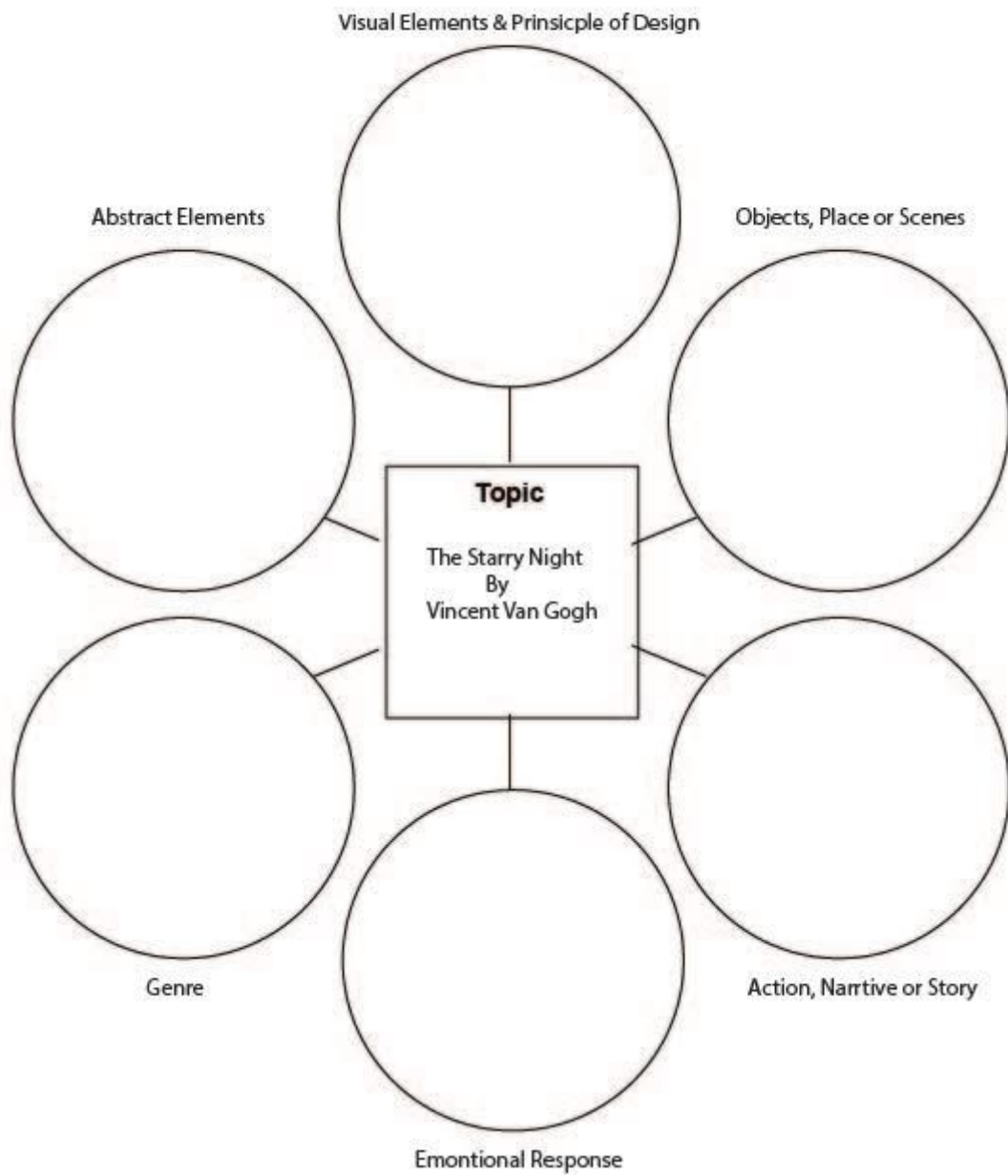
Ex: *The Starry Night* is based on van Gogh's direct observations as well as his imagination, memories, and emotions.

6: Emotional Response

What is your **emotional response** to the artwork? Which subject matter choices help to communicate this mood (i.e. weather and lighting conditions; color of objects and scenes)?

Graphic Organizer

Name _____ Date _____



reference

<https://www.studentartguide.com/articles/how-to-analyze-an-artwork>