**LOOKING AT PHOTOGRAPHERS AND THEIR WORK**

**Opening sentence:**

* Who is it by? When was it taken?

SYMBOLISM

CONSTRUCTION

ASSEMBLAGE

COLLAGE

FOUND IMAGES

PRIMARY SOURCE

SECONDARY SOURCE

PROCESS

COMPOSITION

TECHNIQUE

APERTURE

SHUTTER SPEED

ISO

WHITE BALANCE

MACRO

TELESCOPIC

WIDE ANGLE

LOMOGRAPHY

POLAROID

POST-PRODUCTION

**Materials and Processes**

* Do the props, models, or locations have any symbolic significance? What associations or connotations do the props/garments/poses carry?
* How has the work been made? Has the photographer made it from scratch or has it been assembled from found images?
* Do you think it was staged? Ie did the artist plan the shoot, or was it taken on the spur of the moment?
* What kind of lighting has the photographer used?
* What kind of camera settings has the photographer used? If there is no information, what do you know about aperture, shutter speed, ISO and white balance that could help you to make an educated guess?
* What kind of lens has the photographer used? Could it be macro, telescopic, wide angle, lomographic or polaroid?
* What kinds of skills were involved? What changes might have occurred to the piece while it was being made?
* How visible or invisible is the process of its making? If it is an installation, how has it been assembled? If it is a video piece, how was it filmed and how is it projected?
* How is the work composed, organised or put together?
* Has there been any post-production on the photograph or video, for example the use of Photoshop/manual techniques? How can you tell? How does this add meaning to the work?

**Describe the Photograph:**

* Describe the work as if you were describing it to someone with a blind-fold. Is it a photograph, film, animation or installation?
* What is the subject matter? What models or props have been used?
* What is the setting – is it taken in a studio, or on location?
* Is it in black and white or in colour? What effects does this create?
* Describe the composition. Does it follow any visual rules such as the ‘rule of thirds’? What kind of shapes, lines, forms, textures or repetition can you find in the photograph? Are they curved, straight, sharp or pointed? What effects do they create?
* What is the focal point, and is this created through colour, contrast, or clarity of focus? What effect does this create?
* Has the work been presented creatively to add meaning? Eg, framed, part of a series, on a screen, part of an installation?
* How big is the work? Why is it this size? Would its meaning change if it was bigger or smaller?

ABSTRACT

COMPOSITION

2-DIMENSIONAL

3-DIMENSIONAL

FORM

TEXTURE

LINE

PERSPECTIVE

SPACE

FOCAL POINT

HARMONIOUS

COMPLEMENTARY

CONTRAST

BRIGHT

CHIAROSCURO

ETHEREAL

**KEYWORDS**

CONNECTIONS

CONTEXT

SOCIAL

HISTORICAL

POLITICAL

ENVIRONMENT

MOVEMENTS

TIME PERIOD

RELEVANCE

REASONING

COMMUNICATE

CONNECTIONS

MESSAGES

MOTIVATION

SUBJECT MATTER

REPRESENTATION

COMMUNICATION

SYMBOLIC

PURPOSE

INSPIRATION

PERSPECTIVE

TITLE

MEANING

INTERPRET

CATEGORISE

**Context of the Photograph**

* (for this section you will need to do some research (online or manual) into the photograph, the meanings and purposes behind their artwork and the context of the artwork i.e- what was going on in the world at that time?, What was the photographer’s experience of life and culture that may have influenced their work?)
* What genre of photography is it? Eg. Fashion, photojournalism, documentary, etc.
* When was the work made? Can we make any connections between the work and the time period in which it was made?
* Where was it made? Does the work tell us anything about the place/ Culture in which it was made?
* Who made it? What do we know about the photographer? Who was it made for?
* Did it have a meaning or symbolise anything?
* Can you relate it to the social and political history of the time?
* How does the work relate to other areas of knowledge, for example, science, geography, mathematics, or ecology?
* How do people view the work today? Is it the same or different from how it might have originally been seen?

**What is the Photograph About?**

* What is the work about? What is happening?
* What does the work represent? Moving beyond a straight description of what you see, try to think about and research what the work might stand for. Are there any symbols you recognise?
* What does the artist call it? Does this change the way you see the work?
* What is the theme of the work? For example, war, the human figure, relationships etc.

**Personal Reaction to Artwork**

* What are your first reactions to the work? Why does it make you feel or think like that? What does the work remind you of?
* What can you connect the work to? For example, TV, cinema, music, places you’ve visited, experiences you’ve had.

RESPONSE

EMOTIVE

REMINISCENT

INSPIRED

CONNOTATION

ASSOCIATION

LINK

EXCITES

INSPIRES

CONCEPT

TECHNIQUE

PROCESS

MOTIVATION

**Implications for my Own Work**

* What have you learnt from analysing this photographer’s work?
* What particularly interests or inspires you about his/her work?
* Do you want to follow the same ideas, inspiration or concept as this artist in your own work?
* What particular effect/technique/idea/ materials that the artist has used do you want to use in your own work?

**Useful words to help:**

Create, analyse, evaluate, explore. Experiment, investigate, develop, compare, refine, adapt, consider, interpret, convey, apply, and combine, express.