Layout

You can present your analysis in different ways. If you struggle with writing perhaps try a spider diagram.

Ways of presenting:

Tips

* In art we call artists by their last names. After you have written their full name once you can then just write their last name. E.g. this piece is by Vincent Van Gogh. Van Gogh painted.......
* Pretend you are writing your analysis for someone who can’t see the picture you are looking at. This will help you to properly describe the work without presuming the reader knows what you are talking about.
* Always write in full sentences.
* Try to give reasons behind what you are saying. Instead of “I like this painting” say “I like this painting BECAUSE of (the colours/how it makes me feel/how skilfully it has been made).”
* REMEMBER capital Letters for names and places.
* Check the spelling of your artist’s name online. There is no reason to misspell a name.

GCSE Fine Art – Written Analysis

* Typed
* Handwritten (black pen only, neatly, draw pencil lines first)
* Spider diagram e.g.

This work makes me feel (happy/sad/relaxed/uneasy/confused) because....

The colours used make me feel (happy/sad/excited/angry)

(Artist name) has used (media) to make this piece.

I can tell this because.... (Are there brush marks, pen lines, areas that look cut out and stuck down?)

This piece is of ...... it shows.....

The works represents.....

The title of the work is (title of work)

The title (title of piece) makes me think of.....

The piece is realistic/unrealistic, I can see this because....

The theme of the work is (natural forms/still life/portraits?)

This piece was made in (date)

The piece was made in (place)

The piece was made by (artist’s name)

(The artist) is/was................

(The artist) has used (type of media) in this piece of work.

* (The artist) uses (bright/bold/contrasting/natural) colours in this piece because....
* The shapes in this piece are (elongated/flat/3D/distorted)
* (The artist) uses (wet on wet/dry brush/pointillism)
* The textures in this piece are (bumpy/rough/smooth)

MOOD

Mood means looking at how the artist has created a certain atmosphere or feeling.

PROCESS

Looking at process means studying how the work was made and what techniques were used

CONTENT

The content is the subject of a piece of work.

CONTEXT

This refers to how the work relates to a particular time, place, culture and society in which it was produced.

FORM

This means looking at the formal elements of an artwork.

* How does the work make you feel?
* Why do you think you feel like this?
* Does the colour, texture, form or theme of the work affect your mood?

What materials and tools were used to make the piece?

What is the evidence for this?

* What is it? What is it about? What is happening?
* Is it a portrait? A landscape? Abstract?
* What does the work represent?
* The title - what does the artist call the work?
* Does the title change the way we see the work?
* Is it realistic?
* Have any parts been exaggerated or distorted? If so, why?
* What is the theme of the work?
* What is the medium of the work?
* What colours does the artist use? Why?
* What kind of shapes can you see?
* What kind of marks or techniques does the artist use?
* What kinds of textures can you see?

GCSE Fine Art – written analysis

Not every question will be relevant to every piece of work you study.

If you can’t answer the question about the piece you’re looking at it probably doesn’t apply.

* When was it made?
* Where was it made?
* Who made it?
* What do you know about the artist?

EXAMPLE SENTENCE STARTERS