The Art Critique AS a Game

Musical Chairs Critique

Have each student clear their seat of everything except for their artwork and a piece of paper or sticky notes for others to write on. Have students move around the room to the music, looking at the artwork. When the music stops, students must rush to chairs to critique artwork. The last student standing gets a “strike.” Multiple strikes could result in a funny consequence, or you could have the last student standing share something that they wrote. Repeat at least 6 times.

“Red Light, Green Light” Critique

Option 1: Have students write in their own sketchbook a brief sentence about their artwork and a few questions they have for their peers. Then, students stand and move around the room while the leader or teacher indicates “red light, green light”

Option 2: Have different colored sticky notes for “glow” and “grow” comments. After students move around the room to their critique spot, indicate what they should specifically look for in the artwork (values, composition, theme, etc.) and have them each write a glow and grow comment for each work.

Instagram Critique

Students display their artwork on a board, hallway, or at their tables. Then, students move around the room with 3-4 “likes” (colored sticky notes or stickers) that they can stick NEXT TO the artworks that they like the best. Students also take 3+ full sticky note comment sheets with them to write comments about the artwork they look at. This is a great critique for the end of a project.

Dice Critique

Each student needs a printed sheet of paper with the numbers 1-6 and a corresponding action to critique (what do you notice about the elements/principles of art, composition, etc.) Students can stay at a single artwork, or move between multiple artworks and roll the dice at least 6 times per artwork.

1- COMPOSITION- Is the composition successful?
2- ELEMENTS OF ART- How are the elements of art working in the artwork?
3- PRINCIPLES OF ART- How are the principles of art working in the artwork?
4- MESSAGE AND IDEA- Is the idea presented in a way that makes sense?
5- WORKING- What is the most successful part of this work?
6- IMPROVE- What could the artist improve to make this work more successful?

Speed Dating Critique

This critique can be done at any point in the art making process. Set up students facing each other with their artwork and set a timer set for 2 minutes. Students are not dating, their ARTWORK is going on the “date.” Students introduce their artwork and discuss their process and give each other feedback. Students do not need to visit everyone! They take their artwork on at least 5 “dates.” At the end, students can re-visit the works they wanted more time with.