

Formal Elements of Art

The 7 basic elements around this page are the building blocks for all artworks. When we create artwork, we need to understand and apply these elements.



Line
A mark made by a pointed tool such as a pen, brush or stick. A moving point.



Shape
A flat, enclosed area that has two dimensions, length and width. Artists use both geometric and organic shapes.



Colour
There are three properties of colour: Hue (name), Value (shades and tints) and Intensity (brightness). Colour is created by light.

3 Composition Principles



Asymmetrical
The main focus/elements are on one side

[OA – Composition Photography Video](#)



Symmetrical
The main focus/elements are balanced (ie. middle or both sides)



Radial
The main focus/elements are in the middle with other elements around them

[OA – Line Video](#)

YEAR 9

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When you would have ART, access the video tutorials using the blue hyperlinks

Extend your knowledge by trying these tasks:

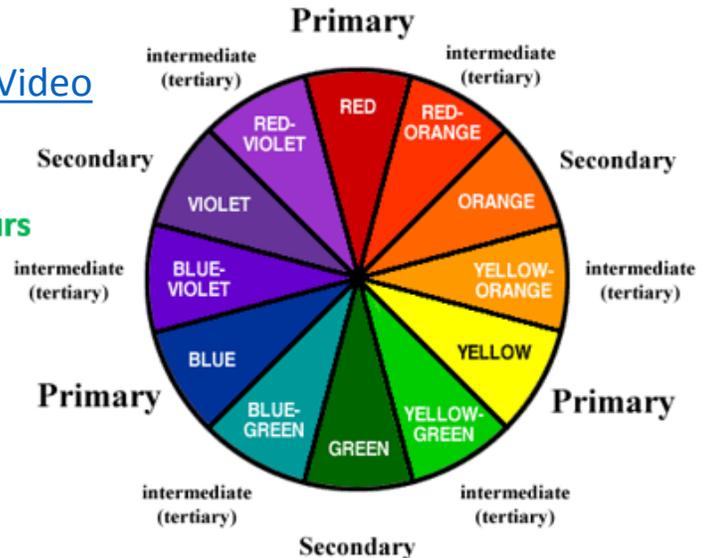
- Create an artwork focusing on just one of the formal elements – repeat with the other elements.
- Create your own colour wheel where you mix the three primary colours to make each of the other colours. Create the wheel again with a different media. (Eg. Pastel, paint, collage)
- Create your own version of an existing artwork but using a different composition principle to the one already used. Repeat the task using a third principle.
- Go to a gallery's website and analyse the artwork using – see, think, wonder. Create a timeline based on artist movements (example – Renaissance, Cubism, Pop Art etc)

[OA – Analysing Artwork Video](#)

[OA – Colour Video](#)

Harmonious Colours

These colours are next to each other on the colour wheel. These colours blend well together and create balance.



Complimentary Colours



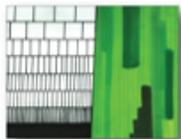
SEE – THINK – WONDER - Describing, Interpreting, Wondering
Analysing Artist's Works.

Look at an image/painting/sculpture silently for about a minute then consider the following:

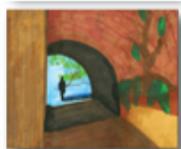
a) SEE -
What do you see? What do you observe? Explain what you see.

b) THINK -
Based on what you see? What do you think is happening in the image? What do you see that makes you think that?

c) WONDER -
What questions do you have about this image? What issues or ideas does it raise in your head?



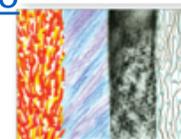
Tone
Degrees of lightness or darkness. When one tonal range blends into another is called a gradation.



Space [OA – Negative Space Video](#)
Is used to create the illusion of depth. Space can be two-dimensional, three-dimensional, negative and/or positive.



Form [OA – Still Life Video](#)
Objects that are three-dimensional having length, width and height. They can be viewed from many sides.



Texture
Describes the feel of an actual surface. The surface quality of an object can be real or implied.