Critique Format

Please use the following format in our class critiques. For a while we will attempt to walk through these as a group and then we will certainly move beyond any formulaic categorizing. Think about how you might lead someone else to see what you see and to understand your assessment. I will suggest other models as we progress in class. Remember that you are searching for your own voice.

Description/Naming
Describe the work without using value words such as "beautiful" or "ugly":
Name the elements of the work (i.e., line movement, light, space).
Name the technical qualities of the work (i.e., materials, instruments).
Describe the subject matter. What is it all about? Are there recognizable images, actions?

Analysis/Relationships of Parts
Describe how the work is organized as a complete composition:
How is the work constructed or planned (i.e. acts, movements)? Identify some of the similarities throughout the work (i.e., repetition of forms, a song reference in each part). Identify some points of emphasis in the work (i.e., specific scene, figure, movement, intervention).
If the work has subjects or characters, what are the relationships between or among them?

Interpretation
Describe how the work makes you think or feel:
Describe the expressive qualities you find in the work. What expressive language would you use to describe the qualities (i.e., tragic, ugly, humorous)? Does the work remind you of other things you have experienced (i.e., analogy or metaphor)? How does the work relate to other ideas or events in the world and/or in your other studies?

Judgment or Evaluation
Present your opinions of the work's success, potentials or challenges:
What qualities of the work make you feel it is successful, has potential that could be carried to another level, or has overriding challenges? What about "failing forward"? Compare it with similar works that you think are good or bad. What criteria can you list to help others judge this work? How original is the work? Why do you feel this is original or not original?