

# DAIJ

Use the prompts below to help you write about an artwork. Remember to use full sentences in your writing and use your description and analysis to help you interpret and judge the piece.

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## **D**escribe: What do you see?

- ❖ Is it realistic or abstract?
- ❖ What is the subject?
  - Landscape, Portrait, Still Life?
    - What's in the background?
    - What's in the foreground?
- ❖ Setting
  - Place
  - Timeframe
    - Day or night?
    - Historic or modern?

## **A**nalyze: How was it created?

- ❖ What *elements and principles of art* were used, and how?
  - What types of lines? Thick, thin, broken, outlines, vertical, curved...
  - What types of colors? Warm, cool, light, dark, bright, dull, monochrome...
  - What types of values? Dark, light, shadows...
  - What kinds of textures? Smooth, rough, soft, bumpy...
  - How is space used?
    - What's the point of view? Aerial, below, eye level...
    - Are there different layers of ground?
    - How can you tell some things are further away than others?
  - How is contrast created?
  - What is emphasized? How?
  - Is there movement?
  - Is there balance?
  - Is there unity?

## **I**nterpret: What does it mean?

- ❖ What is the artwork about? How can you tell?
- ❖ What does it make you think of?
- ❖ What do you think the artist is saying?
- ❖ What kind of mood or feeling does the artwork give you?
- ❖ What symbols are used, and what do they mean?
- ❖ How do different parts of the artwork work together?

## **J**udge: Do you like it? Why or why not?

- ❖ The best/worst part of the artwork is...
- ❖ The strengths/weaknesses of the artwork are...
- ❖ I like/don't like it because...

# Sample DAIJ

Name: Arthur Artist Artwork: Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh

❖ I think this artwork is famous because...

Starry night is a landscape oil painting of a city under a night sky with a really bright moon and stars. There is a big tree in the foreground with many different kinds of buildings in the background. Everything is different shades of blue or yellow, which creates a lot of contrast between bright and shadowy spaces. The sky is emphasized with the rich blues and bright yellows. The sky also shows movement with its swirly lines. The city looks quiet with the smaller, neutral colored buildings made with straight lines. This painting makes me think of growing up in a small town, because it feels very calm and quiet. The sky is clear and bright, and you only get to see that when there aren't a bunch of lights turned on in a city. I think Van Gogh was trying to capture the beauty and peacefulness of a sleeping town. I think this artwork is famous because of the style of painting Van Gogh used. He used a lot of soft, swirly lines and pretty colors that make people feel calm. My favorite part of the artwork is how big the sky is, because it makes you think about how little everything else is.

