



Art Appreciation and Visual Analysis Exercise



Vincent van Gogh, *The Starry Night*, Saint Rémy, June 1889

Description:

In this work, Vincent van Gogh blended his observations with his imagination. A picturesque village is nestled in between the hillsides. A large tree immediately greets the viewer's gaze, soaring up into the starry night sky. The large crescent-moon floats in the upper right corner, while smaller stars are sprinkled throughout the swirling night sky. The sky is composed of different shades of blues, each line of color blends together, resulting in a vibrancy and rhythmic energy in the soothing night sky. The warm glimmer of the golden stars and moon shine bright against the cool tones of the work. Small golden windows from the village below compliment the warm glow seen in the sky.



The Project:

Re-create Vincent van Gogh's masterpiece, *Starry Night*, pictured below, while also adding some features that are your own through your imagination! You may paint, draw, color, or make a digital version. Through a zoom call or in-person, be prepared to display your work and explain how you made your artwork in addition to comparing your work with the original. Your presentation should be 3-5 minutes and you should be prepared to address the following questions:

Visual Analysis for Original Artwork:

- In the original artwork, what do you see? What is included in the painting? (i.e. Houses, a tree, stars, a sky, hillside)
- What **colors** are used in the original painting?
- What **shapes** do you see? (Swirls, circles, triangles, squares)
- Are there any **textures** or **lines** in the painting? (smaller lines blending together in the night sky, the long sinuous shapes of the tree etc.)
- Do you notice any **perspective and or depth**? What is largest/smallest in the original painting?
- What is the overall **composition and style** of the work?
- How do all of these features, colors, shapes, sizes, textures, perspectives work together as a scene? Is it effective? AKA As the viewer, can you easily tell what this scene is? (Another way for them to explain what the composition is...)

Questions about your version of *Starry Night*:

- What technique and medium did you use? (i.e. Collage, Painting, drawing, colored pencils, a mix of everything, computer-based program)
- What elements did you copy directly? Why did you choose those elements?
- What qualities did you add to your work to make it your own? (i.e. Did you use different colors; did you make the sky bigger and the tree smaller etc.)
- What did you find difficult about trying to re-make this piece?
- What did you enjoy about creating this work?
- Did you notice new features of the painting as you were making your own version? Did making your own version of the painting clue you into new details of the original artwork?