AP STUDIO ART
WEEKLY CRITIQUE
STEP-BY-STEP
MrsTFox Resources

Conducting a smooth and productive weekly critique can be a challenge, especially if you have AP students that are mixed in with another art class. If your AP students are combined with another group, I would still conduct critique and allow the rest of the class to participate in the awards and verbal portion, as it will give them a glimpse of what they have to look forward to when they get to your AP Studio Art class. The entire process only takes between 20 and 40 minutes depending on the number of students in your class.

Begin by having the AP work displayed on your board (or a wall, whichever is doable in your classroom space). We display ours on a large corkboard section covered in white paper. The students space the work so that each piece can be viewed without distraction and each student receives ample "display" space.

You will notice a portion of the **AP Studio Art Rubric** that focuses on "Completion". The rule is that if they are not present on the day of critique the artwork must be on the board anyway. They either turn it in early or they send it to school with another student. All work must also be complete. The work is graded on critique day (in part by a peer and in part by the teacher). There is something very powerful and motivating about knowing that their work will be up on the board alongside others. Most AP students see this as a motivating factor and the work will progressively get stronger as the year progresses.

Once the work is on the board I **pass out the "Ribbon Critique Prompt"** (attached) and the "ribbons" of your choice. I purchased ribbons from a ribbon company (see attached pics) but I have also used fake 100 dollar bills, circular colored stickers and paper ribbons as well. I have found that students like being awarded no matter the actual award.

The students will then read the prompt, write their response (they also come up with a name for the piece) and then pin the award next to their choice. Once all awards are up I lead critique by having them explain why they chose to award their ribbons to the corresponding pieces. It helps them respond verbally because they can just read what they just wrote on the paper. We also discuss the pieces that did not receive awards and point out positive and constructive things about all of them. I find that the students really start to build a sense of community as they become familiar with each other's styles and motives for creating artwork.

Once the discussion is finished, I either pass out the **AP Studio Art Peer Evaluation Rubric** and I assign each student someone else's work to critique – (directions to follow) or I use the **Short Form 1-page AP Rubric** (attached) and grade the projects myself. There are either five or six sections on the Peer rubric. There are sections with gray headings and sections with white headings. First, the **students only grade the gray sections**. These sections are easily measurable for unbiased evaluation by the students.

If there is a written prompt for feedback, the students must also answer the question in full. I stress to them that we are a cohesive and supportive group of artists and that everyone needs feedback to grow and succeed.

They then turn in the rubric to me and **I grade the white sections.** I tally, write my own feedback and give the final grade. I am also the final say, so if I feel they have been biased or unfair in their assessment I will change it. This only happens about 2 percent of the time. 98% of the time they are so fair and impartial it is amazing.

The most frequent questions I get are, *"How do you get such a high quality of work across the board?"* and *"How do you get a 100% pass rate every year in AP Studio Art?"* There is a lot of accountability in this critique model. Students know what is expected and the timeline for finished work is every 7-8 days with no exceptions (unless we get snowed out lol!)

If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me at tiffany_fox@iss.k12.nc.us.