Write a 750 word critical analysis. Follow APA style

Examine the Outline and Critical Analysis sample shown at the conclusion of Chapter 2.

**Sample Outline and Critical Analysis**

The following very brief example illustrates how we can use some of the terms explained in the chapter to form an outline and then develop a critical analysis of a work of art. Here is how that might work regarding Peter Paul Rubens’s painting *The Assumption of the Virgin* (see [**Fig. 2.34**](https://jigsaw.vitalsource.com/books/9780205995219/epub/OPS/xhtml/fileP7000490255000000000000000004086.xhtml?create=true#P7000490255000000000000000004166)).

| **Outline** | **Critical Analysis** |
| --- | --- |
| Subject matter and medium | Rubens’s painting The Assumption of the Virgin depicts a Christian religious event in which the Virgin Mary is taken directly to heaven without dying. The painting is done in oil painted on a wooden panel. This is a contrast to oil painting done on canvas. The artist’s treatment of his subject matter reflects a high degree of lifelikeness. The people look like real people, flesh looks like real the flesh, the fabrics drape like real fabrics, and the lighting that creates highlight and shadow appears to come from a single source and creates a sense of reality in the work. |
| Composition Line | The painting is composed so that it seems to have two distinct parts separated by a strong, implied line running on the diagonal from lower left to upper right. The line created by color edges, while shaded naturally, seems to predominate in strongly contrasted transitions from one color area to the next. In addition, the artist has created an intense activity in the painting by using curved lines that make shapes within shapes appear to swirl around. Therefore, the shapes in the painting all seem rounded. |
|  Shape |
| Color | Rubens’s use of color stays predominantly on the warm end of the spectrum, with flesh tones, reds, and golds in the majority and contrasting with whites. A few neutral grays and a very limited amount of cool hues make the figures stand out. |
| Focal areas | The primary focal point of the painting is the Virgin Mary in the top center of the composition. The eye is drawn to her mostly because of the use of encirclement and directional line. Her clothing is far richer and more detailed than the other figures, and that helps give her focus and stature. |
| Balance deep space and perspective | Rubens uses asymmetrical balance, and although there is linear perspective in the steps, the painting seems to stay on the surface plane, with little concern for deep space. |

Access the Artcyclopedia website ([Artcyclopedia (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](http://www.artcyclopedia.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)) and search for **one** of the following works of art by typing in the artist’s name and then selecting the site where the picture is displayed:

* Rosa Bonheur: *The Horse Fair* (National Gallery, London)
* Caspar David Friedrich: *The Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog* (Web Museum)
* Joseph Wright (of Derby): *An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump* (National Gallery, London)
* Nicholas Poussin: *The Holy Family on the Steps* (Cleveland Museum of Art)

Using the textbook example as a guide, write a two-page outline and critical analysis of the piece of art you select. Be sure to include the following headings as part of your paper:

* **Subject Matter and Medium:** List the artist, title, date, stylistic movement, medium (the materials the piece is made from), and a general background and description.
* **Composition:** Analyze lines, shapes, color schemes, focal areas (perhaps indicated by chiaroscuro), balance, and perspective. Consider the intended purpose of these things in the composition.
* **Artists’ purpose or message:** Though this is not included in the textbook example, you should conclude with what you believe was the artists’ purpose or message, whether he or she succeeded in communicating it, and your reaction to the work as a whole.

Be sure to include a convincing, inclusive conclusion at the end of your critical analysis and a bibliography of at least two sources that you used to prepare your analysis, one of which may be Artcyclopedia.com. Do not use and cite Wikipedia. Instead, Library to learn about academic sources. The page on Evaluating Information [Evaluating Information (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](https://my.excelsior.edu/group/library/evaluating-information)includes helpful sections on "Print vs. Web Resources," Evaluation Criteria," Evaluation Scenarios," and "Media Literacy."