1. **Active Looking**

Take an inventory of what you see.
- Consider texture, surface, light/shadow, color, composition, narrative, subject, and other elements of art and principles of design.
- Talk about what you notice, and try to avoid jumping to conclusions and interpretations. This step is crucial to secure a solid foundation for rich conversation.

2. **Choices**

What could the artist have done differently?
- Consider scale, materials, colors, subject, orientation, composition, etc.
- How would these changes affect the way we experience this work of art?
- Given the choices the artist did make, think about what they may mean for the work.
- Remember that the quality of the conversation is what is important, not finding the artist’s “answer.”

3. **Context**

What connections or associations do you have with this work of art?
- Does anything about this work of art remind you of something?
- What if you were told the title of the work or the country in which it was made?
- Act as the gatekeeper of information. Pepper the conversation with context as the students explore the work of art more deeply.
- Do you have outside knowledge that could contribute to an interpretation? Perhaps about politics, history, art history, technique, etc.?

4. **Interpretation**

What might the artist be trying to communicate through this work of art?
- There is not just one grand, unifying meaning for a work of art.
- Use this observation process to collectively create an interpretation using the visual evidence, context information, and group discovery.