

## *The “OPTIC” Method of Visual Analysis*

**O = Overview:** What is happening in the picture ? Summarize the “action” of the visual without analyzing its meaning yet. This is equivalent to the “paraphrase” part of a written text-based analysis. Your statement should be a complete sentence that describes the visual with enough detail so that someone not looking at the visual would have a general idea of what is contained in the visual.

**P = Parts of the picture:** Break the picture down into sections. Describe the placement of objects on the canvas. Name **everything** that you see. Describe color, lighting, and placement, attitude, sizes, orientations, and movement in the image.

**T = Title:** Write down the title of the work, **and** the full name of the artist. What does the title tell you about the picture ? How much does it add to what you understand --or do not understand --about the picture ? *Explain your answers.*

**I = Images and Interrelationships:** Analyze the relationships in the picture. *How* do objects or people or colors relate to each other in the picture ? What clues to the message or argument are these relationships giving you ? What seems to be the most important “relationship” in the picture ?

**C = Conclusion:** Draw a conclusion to the meaning or message of the picture based on what you have viewed and discussed as a group. Essentially, **what is the argument** the artist is trying to convey ? Compose at least 2 phrases showing a relationship between the image phrases and the title of the visuals and should have written one to two complete sentences expressing this summation of relationships.