

Comparing Works of Art: A Format

One way to better understand our art is through comparison. Comparing both similarities and differences brings greater understanding of a culture. Using a format, such as this, may help to organize and communicate our views on the subject.

IDENTIFICATION: Identify the works according to the following known and unknown information:

1. Theme
2. Subject
3. Period in art history.
4. Artist

GENERAL STATEMENT: Answer the following questions:

What are we comparing, e.g. “These two amphora vases represent a basic change in representing man and how each period addressed the issue of figure/ground relationship.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE:

1. Both vases are made of the same terracotta clay.
2. Figures on the earlier are painted in black, in contrast to the later works in which the ground is painted, leaving the figure red.
3. Figures in the earlier piece appear flat, hieratic and more stylized in pose and anatomy. The later work depicts anatomy more accurately. The later figures appear more natural in the contrapposto pose.