

Reading Visual Art in AP English

Edmund Burke Feldman's Method of Art Criticism:

Description

Analysis

Interpretation

Judgment

The Expansionist (Francis Davis Millet, 1899)



Read and DESCRIBE the details of the visual text, which is also called *The Travelled Man*.



ANALYZE the visual text: connections and context.



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RESEARCH context and historical connections.

What is happening in the United States and the World in 1899?

What connections to United States and World history does the painting suggest?



INTERPRET the visual text: argument, point of view, social criticism.

U.S. & World in 1899

- American Imperialism
- Panic of 1893
- Spanish-American War
- Conflict in Philippines
- Panama Canal
- Boxer Rebellion

Parallels for Synthesis

- Louisiana Purchase
- Manifest Destiny
- Age of Exploration
- British Imperialism



INTERPRET the visual text: argument, point of view, social criticism.

Looking with
Contextual Lenses:

- ✓ Artistic & Philosophical
- ✓ Cultural & Social
- ✓ Economic
- ✓ Environmental
- ✓ Ethical
- ✓ Political & Historical
- ✓ Scientific



Contextual Lens Questions inspired by *The Expansionist*:

➤ Economic

How did/do people benefit economically from the expansion of the West?

➤ Ethical

Should the West continue to expand its power and influence?

➤ Cultural

How has the interaction between groups of people impacted local and global culture both positively and negatively?

➤ Political

How will international relations be impacted by the West's growing global influence?

➤ Scientific

How has expansion impacted discovery and advancements in science?

INTERPRET the visual text: argument, point of view, social criticism.



American Progress by John Gast (1872)

INTERPRET the visual text: argument, point of view, social criticism.

What is each character's point of view?

What is the speaker's attitude toward the characters?



INTERPRET the visual text: argument, point of view, social criticism.

What is the author's argument about American Expansion in 1899?



INTERPRET the visual text: argument, point of view, social criticism.

What does the text suggest about humanity?

What are the varied thematic concepts suggested?



JUDGE the visual text: meaning and theme.

“It is preoccupation with possessions, more than anything else, that prevents us from living freely and nobly.” (Bertrand Russell)

“The love of property and consciousness of right and wrong have conflicting places in our organization, which often makes a man’s course seem crooked, his conduct a riddle.”
(Abraham Lincoln)



“The things you own end up owning you.”
(from *Fight Club*, based on the novel by Palahnuik)