



**How
to Hold
an Effective
Art Critique.**

Before

**Remember
that the point
of the critique
is to improve.**

At the beginning of the session, state group intentions.

Remind yourself that a critique is not a congratulations for finishing, but rather a framework to understand your work better.

**Start with an
established
community.**

You'll understand each other's goals, weaknesses, and styles better and can be more honest.

The whole event will feel much more natural and conversational rather than transactional.

Have questions about your work prepared.



Taking the time to create thoughtful, pertinent questions is an extremely valuable tool.

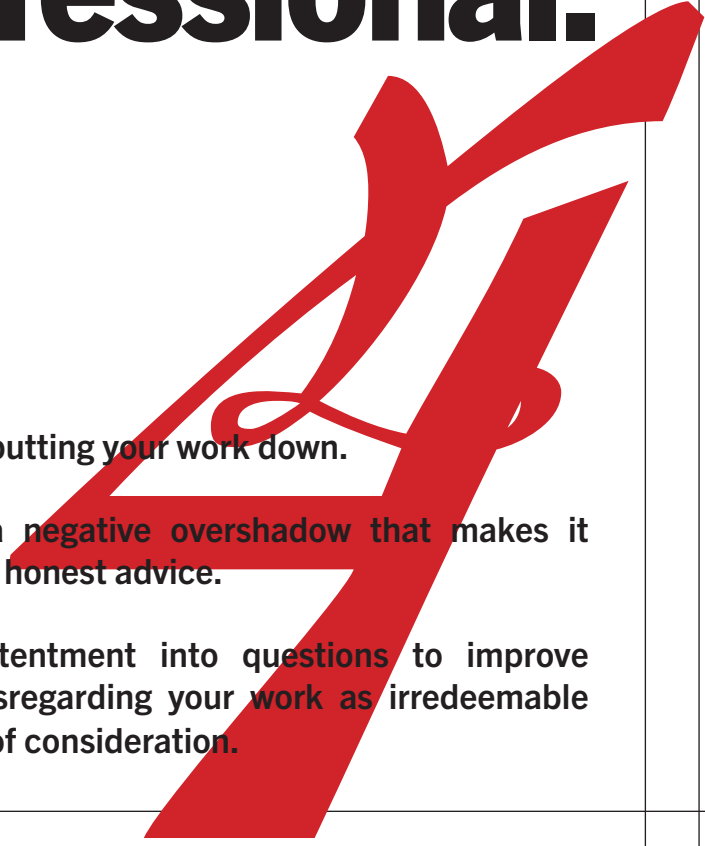
This is a rare scenario where you can learn how others perceive your work, take advantage of it.

Try to stay neutral, or at least professional.

Don't start by putting your work down.

This creates a negative overshadow that makes it difficult to give honest advice.

Funnel discontentment into questions to improve rather than disregarding your work as irredeemable and unworthy of consideration.





Take notes as people make comments.

In the pressure of the moment, it's easy to forget your peers' helpful insights.

Writing notes allows you to remember every little thing about how your art is viewed, and creates an atmosphere that encourages poignant, genuinely helpful comments.

Use the principles and elements of art and design.

Using these terms prevents pointless rambling and hones in on specific aspects of a piece beyond face value, granting structured advice.

No "I love the vibe" comments!



Be concise.

Say what you think directly.

Don't dance around your point.

Don't repeat what someone else has already discussed.

Impertinent comments don't lead to improvement, waste time, and create an atmosphere that limits honest, helpful critique.

Be honest!



Remember Rule 1! Don't say something you don't believe.

You do a disservice to your peers by lying to them.


Pointless or directionless flattery is a great way to encourage stagnation and discourage risk taking that could push a piece to the next level.



**Give suggestions
that encourage
further
experimentation.**

Note ways to improve an aspect that isn't working, rather than just stating it.

If you love something, encourage its application in more ways and tell them why this could improve the piece.



**Engage with
both the piece's
physical medium
and its' concept.**

Why and how do they inform each other?

Use pertinent descriptions for both and draw connections between them rather than separate observation.

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**Be the
reason
you and
others' work
accelerates.**