O.P.T.I.C.

Paying attention to the details is a habit that is a necessary part of effective analysis. As you analyze visual texts, including paintings, photographs, advertisements, maps, charts or graphs, the OPTIC strategy can help you construct meaning. As you examine a visual text, respond to each element:

**Overview**
Write a brief overview of the image: in one complete sentence, what is this image about?

**Parts**
Key in on all of the parts by noting any details that seem important. This can be anything: color, figures, textures, scenery, groupings, shadings, patterns, numbers, etc.

**Title / Text**
Use the title to clarify the subject of the image. Consider both literal and metaphoric meanings. What does the title suggest? Is there any text in the image—a caption, or words in the image itself? What might this text suggest? What are the connotations?

**Interrelationships**
Discover the interrelationships in the image. How do the parts or pieces relate, both to one another and the image as a whole. Is there an evident perspective or point of view? What patterns do you see? How do the parts come together to reveal the artist’s message?

**Conclusion**
Draw a conclusion about the meaning of the visual as a whole: think about what the artist, photographer, creator, or designer might be trying to capture and convey, and what ideas, arguments, or implications this image presents.