Identifying Key Information about Works of American Art

### About the Time Period
- Around the time the artwork was made, what was happening in history, society, or politics that the artist was probably responding to?
- Are there primary source documents that shed light on the question above? If so note them.
- What or who is missing from the artwork? Are there realities the artist didn’t address?

### About the Artwork
- What does the work depict or represent? What is the subject?
- What visual strategies did the artist use to get his/her ideas across?
- Did the artist write about the work? Is he/she quoted as saying anything about it? What did critics or art historians say about it? Add relevant quotes.
- In what ways is the work a reflection of society or a product of its time?
- Why was the artwork made? Was it commissioned by somebody?
- Why does the artwork look the way it does? What expectations was the artist responding to?

### About the Artist
- When did the artist live? Where did he/she work most of the time?
- What of the artist’s life experiences might have influenced or inspired him/her to make the work of art?
- What was happening in the artist’s life when he/she made the work? Where was he/she?
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