

Mural Analysis Worksheet

A Guide to Mural Interpretation

1. Study the mural for 5 minutes. Form an overall impression of the mural and then examine individual items.
 2. Divide the mural into quadrants and focus on each section—do you see any new details?
 3. List the people, objects, and activities and any symbols you find in the mural.
 - People:
 - Objects:
 - Activities:
 - Symbols:
 4. Evaluate the symbols. Are they:
 - Clear (easy to read)?
 - Memorable?
 - Dramatic?
 5. Based on your observations of items, list three things you might infer from the mural.
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
 6. What kinds of colors are in the mural? Are they bright? Dark? Earthy? How does this affect the overall tone of the mural? Be aware that the colors in unrestored murals may be muted from dirt.
 7. Where is/was the mural displayed? Who was the intended audience?
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8. Does the mural have a title? If so, what does it suggest about the artist's vision?
 9. Based upon all of your observations, write a statement summarizing your interpretation of the mural's message. Refer to your observations to provide evidence for your interpretation.