

Exploring Parliament House



Headline

Buildings are often a reflection of different periods of time, trends and themes

What periods of time, trends and themes can you spot?

- What evidence can you find that the building may have changed over time?
- Why do you think the changes might have been made?

Write some headlines for the trends, themes and changes you have noticed



Blinkers

Make blinkers with your hands so that you can only see the artwork or part of the building/room in front of you

Study what can you see closely

- What do you notice that you didn't notice before?
- Do you experience the art work or room differently now? How?

What questions do you have about what you can see?



Poetry eleven

Turn your impressions of a room, the building or a work of art into an 11-word poem

1 word – first impression

2 words – explanation

3 words – description

4 words – question/statement

1 word – final impression



Senses

What does this room smell like?

How does this room feel?

What noises can you hear?

- What might this room sound like when used?

What can you see?

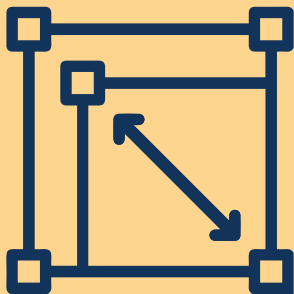


Dimensions

Choose something to focus on. It can be the building, a feature of the building, a room, an object, an artwork, a piece of furniture or anything else you notice.

How does the size of the item make you feel?

- How would you feel if that item got much bigger?
- How would you feel if that item got really really small?



Music

Focus on the room, a feature of the room, an artwork, an object or anything else you notice

What sort of soundtrack would you create for what you've chosen?

- What would happen if you changed the music?
- How might changing the music change what you think about what you chose?



Memory

Look briefly at a room, artwork or object, then turn around or close your eyes

- Try to remember what it looked like
- Make a mental list of everything you noticed

Look at the work/room again

- Did you remember everything correctly?
- What else did you notice?



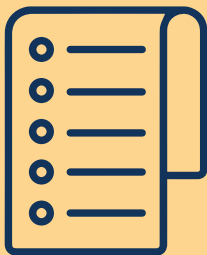
Five words

Look carefully at a room, artwork or object

- Make a list of five words. These could be associations, feelings, memories and/or observations

Look again and write down another five words

Optional: Compare your list with the other people in your group and discuss the things you've noticed



Detail

Photograph a detail of the building, a room, an artwork or an object.

Study it closely. What do you notice?

Repeat with other details. What do you notice?



Sketch

Make a sketch of a room, artwork, object or detail that you find interesting

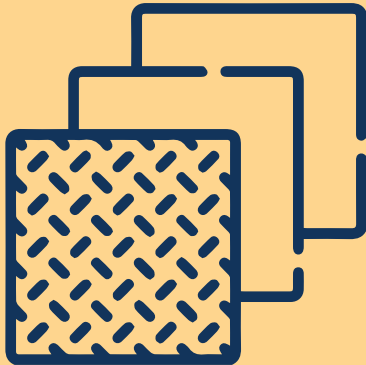
Variation: Make the sketch without looking at your paper



Material

What material/s is this room, artwork or object made from?

- Why do you think the material/s were chosen?
- What materials would you use?



Source

Which materials do you notice in the room, artwork or object?

- Are the materials found naturally, man-made or a combination?
- Could the materials be recycled or reused?

What other materials could be used if you were to remake the room, artwork or object?



Arrival

What is the first thing you notice when you walked into the building/room?

Close your eyes and breathe deeply

- Be fully present: feel your feet on the ground, notice the smells, sounds, colours and temperature

Open your eyes

What do you notice now?



Title

Give the room, artwork or object a new name or title

- If you are in a group, you can all name the same work and then compare your titles to see whether you perceived the work in the same way

Variation for works without a title:

- What would you call this work?



Clothes

Choose an artwork

Look at the clothes the person or people are wearing

- How would you describe the clothes?

Compare them with your own

- What differences and similarities do you see? Explain the differences



Interview

Interview the room, an artwork or an object

What questions would you ask?

- See how many questions you can come up with in one minute

Optional: Try and answer the questions you just asked



Pose

Imitate the pose of a person from an artwork

- Does the pose feel natural?
- Why do you think the person or artist choose this pose?

How do you think the person in the artwork feels?

What sort of personality do you think this person has?



Description

Choose a room, artwork or object

What description or caption would you include?

- If it has a description already, without reading the original, write a new description for it



Weather

What kind of weather would you compare this room, artwork or object to?

Describe how the weather would:

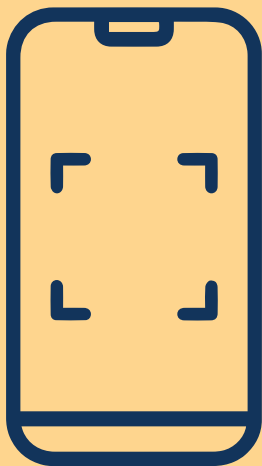
- feel on your skin
- smell
- make you feel



Mood

Take a selfie in a room, or with an artwork or object that matches your mood

Try to capture the mood on your face and in your pose



Symbols

Choose one of the symbols common in the décor and count the number of times you see them

- For example: Acorns, lions, oakleaves or crowns

Why do you think this symbol has been used so often?

If the room was redecorated what symbols would you use? Why?



Function

What do you think this room is used for?

What artworks and objects would you add or take out of this room?

What different events could you host in this room?



Expression

Imitate the facial expression of a person in an artwork or sculpture.

- What might they be feeling?
- What might they be thinking?

What other artworks or sculptures share similar expressions?



Pedestal

Compare the different positions of the artwork, objects and any statues around the different rooms

How does the position or placement relate to the artwork?

Would moving the artwork, object or statue change how you feel about it?

