

Write It: Contemplations on Sculpture

During your visit to Franconia Sculpture Park's exhibit, pay close attention to the sculptures. Perhaps write the title, artist(s), and other important information in a notebook, along with a sketch of the sculpture to jog your memory for this activity. You can either write your responses on notebook paper, or use these questions to guide small group discussion.

Figure

The human form is arguably the orientation of sculpture. What examples of figures (a human form) do you remember in the park? Were they abstracted? What message is the artist conveying with the abstraction or representation?

Negative Space

Sculpture is not just the object, but also the space around and inside of the work. Some artists use the notion of this type of negative space to make the work itself. Can you find an example of a work that is negative space? How does the use of negative space help to convey the overall message of the sculpture?

Recognizable Objects

Do you see forms, commonplace objects, or a composition that reminds you of something else? Is it a metaphor or a change of scale that makes the transformation interesting? Is there a sculpture that makes you think of something else?

Texture and Surface

Do any of the pieces in the park have an interesting surface that changes the way you see the form of the sculpture? What is the texture, and how does it change the piece?

Process

Making a piece of sculpture often becomes the work of art itself. If carving is taking away material, modeling is building a shape, casting is taking on a shape: what is performance to the creation of a piece? Pick a particular piece, which seems to have evolved because of a performance, and discuss how that made the shape of the final sculpture and your reaction to it.

States of Metal

Many outdoor sculptors use metals to leave a mark of permanence. What various states of metal do you find? Painted, rusted, fabricated, cast, etc. How does this state of metal make the piece what it is?

Composition

Musicians compose music with attention to rhythm, balance, symmetry, and climax. Describe your reaction to a sense of composition within sculpture.