Art 6 Name _____

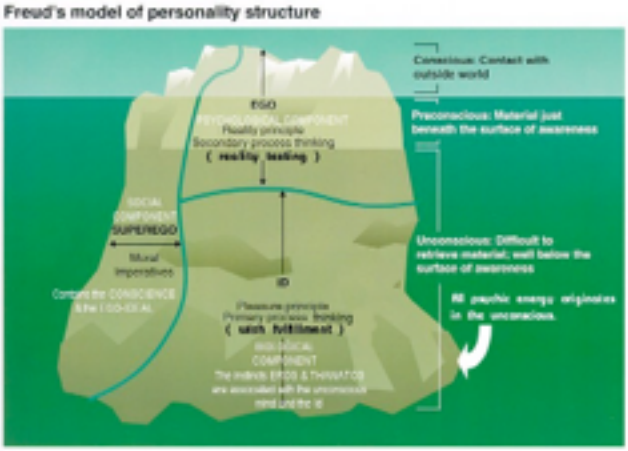
Women Artists in History Due Date _____

You earned _____ out of 20 possible points.

Worksheet 5

Using Psychoanalysis as a Method

A psychoanalytic approach uses Freudian theory on the development of personality (the iceberg, and the id, ego, & superego) while considering how the artist's decisions may have been influenced by drives outside of their awareness. Freud theorized that an artist makes a work of art as an attempt to resolve developmental conflicts and as a means of obtaining pleasure. When using psychoanalysis to understand the meaning of a work of art, the viewer examines an artist's psychological development as it relates to the work and the perceived (or demonstrated) pleasure associated with the making and viewing of the work. As well, the viewer may also consider their own experiences and how they color their understanding of the work of art.



Find a work (made by a female artist) that is considered to be an avant-garde and/ or a modernist work. Conduct research on the artist and the work using credible sources of information. Using the information found, and citing the sources of your information in MLA style, demonstrate the use of psychoanalysis as a method for understanding the work. Remember to include biogrpahic information as well as a consideration of the id, ego, superego and pleasure principle as they relate to the work in your interpretation.

Title, artist, date - _____

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