Key Concepts of Aesthetic Engagement

1) **Representative**  *Aesthetic meaning through connections that represented previous associations and encounters.*
   This kind of engagement illuminates aspects of one’s connectedness to each other and to the external world—to people, places and ideas that lay beyond the individual. Representative connections include associations that were familiar, typical, cultural, characteristic, or symbolic. How is “representation” at play in the piece at hand?

2) **Sensory**  *Aesthetic meaning through sensory connections.*
   What meaning is made via direct participation through the senses? Which senses? In what instances?

3) **Appreciative**  *Aesthetic meaning through appreciative connections.*
   One can demonstrate appreciation through the quality of one’s attention and observation. An attribute of an appreciative experience is conscious presence and attention. This kind of noticing notably heightens or enhances the quality of an experience for the audience. How does the piece elicit “appreciation?”

4) **Formal Connections—logos**  *Aesthetic meaning through shared or common associations of logic and reason.*
   These associations are generally made based on how one perceives and responds to the given mode (the way or manner) of external representation. This kind of engagement speaks to the “logic” of the work at hand. These elements may include formal and informal design principles, styles, techniques, movements, and genres. How does the piece draw on “logos/formal connections?”

5) **Emotional Connections—pathos**  *Aesthetic meaning through emotional associations.*
   Works can evoke a wide array of emotions, such as delight, awe, anger, and revulsion. Often these emotional associations proceed to move one to reflection, decision or action. How does the piece elicit “pathos/emotional connections?”

6) **Ethical Connections—ethos**  *Aesthetic meaning through credible connections.*
   Associations are regarded as meaningful because they reflect or represent lived experience, personal beliefs, knowledge, societal values. How does the piece elicit “ethos/credible connections?”