Text -- The NerdWriter Analyzes Edward Hopper's Nighthawks

Evan Puschak has his own YouTube channel (NerdWriter) in which he offers video essays. He is thoughtful, well-researched, and has a keen sense of timing and audience awareness. In this video essay he analyzes one of the iconic 20th century American paintings, Nighthawks. Pay attention to not only what he sees, but also notice the biographical and historical context he weaves into his analysis. I admire how he uses both images and words to teach you about the painting.

Assignment -- For your first blog post, I want you to choose a work of art that has had meaning to you. It can be a work of literature. It can be a painting. It can be a song. It can be any creative endeavor that you can justify for its artistry. I want you to analyze that work of art on a similar level to Evan Puschak. If you look at his show notes on the YouTube page for the Nighthawks video essay, he has done a fair amount of research. I want you to do the same. Tell me what you value in the work. Tell me why it has artistic merit. But also, excavate relevant information about the artist and place the work in its historical or cultural context.

Why it is important -- I want you to enrich your personal language, background knowledge, and vocabulary through writing as a means of communicating. This blog post asks you to see the complexity of a work of art. You have to articulate not only what it means to you, you must also have a broader appreciation for the artist, as well as the cultural and historical context in which it was created and how that work has transcended time to speak to you today.