

## **7 (6+1) Questions To Ask About a Work of Art**

*Answer the following questions on a separate page.*

1. What is the first thing you see when you look at this picture?
  - a. What are two or three ways the artist focuses you on this part of the painting?
2. Look at the lines in the painting. Where do they converge? Do they seem to aim at anything/draw your eye to anything? If so what?
3. List the objects or people you see in the picture.
  - a. Which objects/people take up the most actual space?
  - b. How much space?
4. What colors dominate the picture? How does the artist use color?
  - a. Are there stark contrasts or are the colors blended?
5. Based on your answers above, summarize the painting's subject matter in a sentence.
  - a. What does the painter seem to think about his/her subject? (Does s/he like it? Dislike it? Is this hopeful? dubious? fearful? optimistic? adoring? overwhelmed?...)
6. Look at the title and at any clues about the time period.
  - a. What does the title add to your understanding of the painting?
  - b. How does your knowledge of the time period add to what you understand in the painting?
7. Is this work reflecting an America of the people for the people or an America of the elite for the elite?
  - a. (What would your historical & literary people say about this?)