

From CWC Sacramento President Kimberly Edwards, October 19, 2020 (with ME edits):  
Please see the link below, shared at yesterday's Central Board meeting. Someone from the Berkeley Branch uses it for a critique group, with suggested modifications.

<https://lizlerman.com/critical-response-process/>

Through the supportive structure of its four core steps, **Critical Response Process** combines the power of questions with the focus and challenge of informed dialogue. The Process offers makers an active role in the critique of their own work. It gives makers a way to rehearse the connections they seek when art meets its audience or a product meets its purpose.

Critical Response Process instills ways of thinking, communicating and being that enhance all kinds of human interactions, from coaching to community dialogue, from artistic collaboration to family conversations. In use for over 25 years, Critical Response Process has been embraced by art makers, educators, scientists, and theater companies, dance departments, orchestras, laboratories, conservatories, museums, universities, corporations, and kindergartens.

#### Role 1: Artist/Maker (Author)

Offers a work-in-progress for review and feels prepared to question that work in a dialogue with other people.

#### Role 2: Responder

Engages in dialogue with the author, with a commitment to the author's intent to make excellent work.

#### Role 3: Facilitator

Initiates each step, keeps the process on track, and works to help the author and responders use the process to frame useful questions and responses.

#### Step 1. Statements of Meaning

Responders state what was meaningful, evocative, interesting, exciting, and/or striking in the work they have just read / heard.

#### Step 2. Artist as Questioner

The author asks questions about the work. In answering, responders stay on topic with the question and may express opinions in direct response to the author's questions. (Alternatively, this is where the reviewers note the questions about the narrative that they didn't understand or follow.)

#### Step 3. Neutral Questions

Responders ask neutral questions about the work, and the author responds. Questions are neutral when they do not have an opinion couched in them. This step is one of the most fundamental, challenging, and misunderstood steps of Critical Response Process.

#### Step 4. Opinion Time

Responders state opinions, given permission from the author; the author has the option to say no.