

“The Crucifixion”

Mantegna (1457)

Composition Analysis



1. What is the **focal point**? (Where do the **lines of perspective** lead ?)

2. Can you identify a **gradient** of light to dark?
Is it from earth to heaven, or heaven to earth?

Where does this gradient draw your eye?

3. Look at the **shape** of the Christ on the cross, the line of his body. Do the way his arms stretch out make it seem that he is behind, in front or flush with the other objects/ characters?

What could this be teaching you?

4. Is there any **space** around the Christ figure?
What objects/ parts of the painting are actually in contact with him?

Does this have any importance?

See if you can trace the path to the city.

Where does this path start from?

Why might this be significant? What is the future that his sacrifice opens up for us ?

Where does the artist imagine **you** to be standing? How does he make you look at the painting?

What do you think this painting teaches you about

(a) how Christ felt about doing what he did?

(b) What the artist wants you to understand about Christ's death?

