Effective Peer Art Critique: What can be accomplished from reciprocal teaching? (Avid strategies that apply to college level art classes)

What kind of feedback do you find helpful from your teacher?

What kind of feedback would you find helpful from your peers?

When we critique the work of others, our goal should be to make a difference, help to solve a problem, find a solution that assists in communicating a message based on the response of the viewer of that piece. It is not helpful to give empty praise, but it is helpful to express what “specifically” works in the piece.

What worked, and why? What was left unanswered and what artistic strategy can either help convey that message or at least keep from distracting the viewer from the intended message?

How does the piece effect you?

What might make that message stronger?

When you suggest that there should be more color, contrast, detail, attention to proportion, or less negative space, etc. consider why you are making these suggestions. Will they really improve the artwork?

Consider the overall portfolio. Which pieces convey the “breadth” of the artist’s skill? How do you think the jurors will perceive the broad and varied artistic ability of this student? What advice can you give them that will strengthen their presence with the jury?

Now re-phrase what you have written so that your words result in actions that will help this budding artist to best convey their message.