

Read a Portrait Observation Guide for Students

Questions	Observations
What is the person wearing? What does the person's clothing tell us about the person?	
What can you say about the pose: casual, playful, formal? Is the sitter facing forward (frontal), three quarter, or profile? Is the portrait a full-body portrait, half body, or just the face?	
Are there signs of an occupation?	
What do you see in the background?	
What do you see in the foreground of the portrait?	
Is it an individual portrait, a couple, or a group such as a family?	
Besides the sitter, do you see others in the portrait? What are they doing? Can you tell who they are?	
What does the person's clothing indicate?	
What beside the portrait is in the picture: animals, weapons, tools?	
By looking at the face or the pose, what can you tell about the personality of the sitter?	