

## Artwork Explication: *The Raft of the Medusa*



1. **DICTION:** Record the denotative and connotative meanings of the primary words in the title.
2. **CHARACTERIZATION:** Explain how characterization is used to establish the difference in emotions between the people at the bottom of the raft and at the very top through an analysis of the following elements of indirect characterization:
  - appearance and/or dress
  - effect on others
  - action or movement
3. **IMAGERY:** Is the painting dominated by warm or cool colors? Describe the location of the dark and light areas. Overall, do the colors and light establish a positive or negative tone?
4. **SYMBOLISM:** What is the symbolic meaning of three individual elements in the work? How do these three symbols work together to establish an overall meaning of the work?
5. **TONE:** Review your responses for numbers 2–4 and describe what you believe to be the artist's attitude towards the subject of this painting. Explain how two elements from the work help establish this tone (remember that some works have more than one tone).
6. **PLOT:** At what point on the plot line does the scene depicted in this work fall? Explain how specific elements in the work helped you determine your answer.
7. **THEME:** State the central, underlying, and controlling idea of this work.