Examining Primary Source Images

This drawing is from a book by Wilson Armistead in a collection at the Library of Congress.

Take time to study the image and make a few notes about what you see.
Reconsider the image. Pay attention to the circled areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blue circle:</th>
<th>This image has a title that helps us understand the activity going on.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red &amp; Black circles:</td>
<td>Show what is described in the title…a picture and land being sold in the red circles, a slave being sold in the black circle. These elements make it clear that African-Americans were treated like property…the same as paintings and estates that were sold for money.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink circle:</td>
<td>This event is being held in a very elegant location. This makes us think that the people participating are wealthy, and the event is acceptable and entertaining for them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow circle:</td>
<td>People do not seem to be bothered that the sale of persons was happening. Women are dressed up for the event, as if they are attending a show. The man who is seated seems to show an attitude that this event was common, and he decided to relax for awhile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green circles:</td>
<td>Children are present. Adults normally try to protect children from the bad things in the world. The fact that children are present in this drawing, one even playing with a toy, shows that the adults did not believe this event to be wrong.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By carefully analyzing the image we are able to determine

**WHO**    **WHAT**    **WHEN** & **WHERE**

about the image.

WHO is involved?  Wealthy persons of the South.

WHAT is the activity?  Property be being sold.

WHERE is it happening?  At the Rotunda in New Orleans, Louisiana

WHEN is it happening?  Before the slaves were freed.

• The only written information provided with this primary source image is on the image itself.

• Sometimes you will have more written information that can help you analyze the image.
Write Your Reflection

The time to write your reflection is

- AFTER you have carefully analyzed the image.
- AFTER you have identified WHO, WHAT, WHEN, and WHERE.
- AFTER you have read the text, if any, that is provided.

Your reflection should

- Be your genuine feelings and ideas about the image.
- Include what you observe in the image to back-up your ideas.
- Show that you were thoughtful and careful in your thinking.
- Make some guesses about what is going on or what might happen.
- Be written in complete sentences with good grammar and correct spelling.