NIGHTLIFE

Grade level: elementary or secondary, with adaptations
Works of art: *Nighthawks* (slide 19)
*Nightlife* (slide 20)

Both paintings depict aspects of nightlife in 1940s America. Compare the two works of art by answering the following questions:

1. What adjectives describe the mood of each scene? Make a list of adjectives for each painting:

   *Nighthawks*

   *Nightlife*

2. How did Edward Hopper and Archibald J. Motley, Jr. each use color, line, and composition to create the mood or effect? What role does space play in evoking the mood? Is the space in each painting crowded or empty? Shallow or deep? How do viewers "get in" to each space? Are they, in fact, even able to "enter?"

3. What is going on in each depicted space? What interactions, activities, and conversations are taking place? What are the sounds and smells? What is the temperature? Back up your answers with evidence in the works of art.

4. What time of night is it in each scene? How did you arrive at your answer?

5. How is each painting grounded in the 1940s? What visual clues place the works of art in that time period? What aspects of each scene, while looking dated to us, were actually "modern" in the 1940s?

6. On a separate piece of paper, write a short story based upon the scene in *Nighthawks* or *Nightlife*. Who are the main characters and what has happened or will happen next? Be creative, but look to the painting for clues.