

MUSEUM PAPER

This assignment will involve looking at and writing about something you can experience in person, instead of through photographs, and thus will require you to travel to a local museum, preferably a couple of times. You can choose from the following list:

- San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. <http://www.sfmoma.org/>
- De Young Museum, SF. <http://www.thinker.org/deyoung/index.asp>
- Legion of Honor, SF. <http://www.legionofhonor.org/legion/index.asp>
- Asian Art Museum, SF. <http://www.asianart.org/>
- San Jose Museum of Art. <http://www.sjmusart.org/>
- Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University, Palo Alto.
<http://museum.stanford.edu/>

Wherever you choose to go, your assignment is to pick a work of art, (no replicas, original works only please) and write a 4-5 page paper exploring and analyzing it, based on close observation and research. Choose your work carefully. Find a work that "speaks" to you - not just emotionally, but intellectually as well.

You should plan to spend at least one hour looking at the work once you have chosen it. Take a pad of paper and a pencil with you so that you can record your thoughts as they occur to you. Spend some time in front of your chosen work of art and observe as many details as possible. Take note of:

Basic Concepts

- Representational (Figurative, Naturalistic, Trompe l'oeil, Realistic, Idealized)
- Abstract
- Nonrepresentational/Nonobjective
- Form (Size, Shape, Medium, Material, Color, Style, Composition, Condition, etc.)
- Content (Subject matter, Message, Iconography)
- Context (Knowledge of artist, time & culture)

The Visual Elements

- Line (Type of lines, Direction and movement, Implied lines)
- Shape and Mass (Positive/Negative shapes)
- Light
- Color
- Texture
- Space
- Time & motion

Principles of Design

- Unity and Variety
- Balance (Symmetrical, Asymmetrical)
- Emphasis and Subordination
- Scale and Proportion
- Rhythm

Research and Citations

Your research should include at least **two** sources. Only one of these sources can be an Internet source. If you find material online, be careful that your sources are reliable. The other sources can come from any relevant journal or book but your textbook should not be one of the primary sources.

(Tip: You can find articles and books through De Anza College Library [you can access netlibrary.com which have full text books on line through De Anza; you will need to choose a password in the library first].

In addition, Link+ [<http://csul.iii.com/>] will enable you to order books from various libraries that will deliver them to your neighborhood library. To use their free services, you must first become a member of San Jose Public Library. Check their branches locations at: <http://www.sjlibrary.org/about/locations/>)

When you incorporate material from a written or on-line source, you **must** acknowledge each instance of this in a citation. You should include footnotes throughout the paper (*Tip: in MS Word: Insert > Reference > Footnote*) as well as bibliography in the end of the paper. The format you should use for these footnotes and bibliography should adhere to the standards set by the MLA or Chicago Manual of Style. You can consult these Web sites for guidelines:

- MLA - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>
- Chicago - <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/sites/guides/chicagogd.html> (scroll down for the Arts, Literature, History version).

The paper should include:

1. A thesis statement and introduction to your topic.

Your thesis statement should be based on your interpretation, observations, and thoughts about the object you have chosen as well as your research. While these ideas should be supported by facts such as dimensions, materials used, date, etc., or by an understanding of history, religion etc., it is still appropriate for you to make a case for your own interpretation and understanding of the work.

2. Discussion that supports this central idea

This discussion should include:

- a. A description of the chosen artwork.
- b. A discussion that uses your research material to support your thesis statement.

Optional:

c. A comparison between the work you have chosen and another work of art (Think about what makes your comparative choice an interesting one. Does the artist work with similar

issues, handle the medium in a similar way, or treat a subject similarly, etc?) Use the comparison to sharpen your thinking and your observation, but in your essay concentrate mainly on the work in the museum.

3. The Conclusion

Base the conclusion on your discussion and do not merely repeat your opening statement or thesis.

Format

Present your paper in typewritten, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font format. All pages should be numbered and have 1-inch margins on all sides. Your paper should have:

- A separate title page with your name; the title of your paper; the title, artist and date of the artwork you chose; the name of the museum you visited, and the date you were there.
- Your thesis statement on another separate page.
- Your admission ticket stapled to your paper.
- A photo of the work you chose.
- Grading sheet.

PLEASE ATTACH THIS SHEET TO YOUR PAPER

Your paper will be assigned a numeric grade based on the following criteria:

1. Paper is aimed to the assignment and all requested elements are included _____(0-15 points)
 2. Paper is well structured and has a clear thesis. Ideas are supported with sufficient evidence _____(0-10 points)
 3. Sufficient research _____(0-10 points)
 4. Grammar, spelling, mechanics _____(0-6 points)
 5. Correct format of citations _____(0-5 points)
 6. Originality _____(0-4 points)
- TOTAL POINTS EARNED:** _____(0-50 points)

Plagiarized papers will receive zero credit for this assignment!