



Writing the Paper

- You need to have an argument and do your research to back up your main claim. You should use at least 6-7 sources, such as scholarly books, journals and articles.
 - Since many of you will be outside the campus and its libraries, I suggest you to use online databases, such as JSTOR accessible via SHSU Libraries website. On JSTOR you can search by the name of artist, movement etc. There are many scholarly articles available on the Internet via our library website.
 - I strongly recommend that you consult the SHSU Library Research Guides: <https://shsulibraryguides.org/?b=p>
 - In addition to 5-7 scholarly sources that you will find by yourself, you can refer to the articles from class, museum websites, as well as to the reviews of exhibitions that you can find in journals available on the Internet.

Some Ground Rules:

Art history introductions do not differ radically from history, architecture history, or comparative literature introductions. Mention which works you'll be discussing, including the name of the artist, the title of the work or works (italicized; if the original title is not in English, you may include it in parentheses), the year(s) in which it was made, and, the

materials out of which it was made. When you include illustrations, make sure you add the figure number in parentheses before the final punctuation. For example:

Frank Lloyd Wright worked for the firm of Louis Sullivan before he created his highly influential Robie House (fig.1).

All paper citations must be properly formatted according to CHICAGO STYLE, the most popular format for art historians. **DO NOT USE IN TEXT CITATIONS.** This means that you should use either footnotes or endnotes, so make sure you know how to do it. There is an easy reference website for you to check your formatting:

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html **PAPERS NOT CITED WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL.**

What is Research?

A research paper is the culmination and final product of an involved process of research, critical thinking, source evaluation, organization, and composition. It is, perhaps, helpful to think of the

research paper as a living thing, which grows and changes as the student explores, interprets, and evaluates sources related to a specific topic. Primary and secondary sources are the heart of a research paper, and provide its nourishment; without the support of and interaction with these sources, the research paper would morph into a different genre of writing (e.g., an encyclopedic article). The research paper serves not only to further the field in which it is written, but also to provide the student with an exceptional opportunity to increase his/her knowledge in that field. It is also possible to identify a research paper by what it is not.

What is not Research?

A research paper is not simply an informed summary of a topic by means of primary and secondary sources. It is neither a book report nor an opinion piece nor an expository essay consisting solely of one's interpretation of a text nor an overview of a particular topic. Instead, it is a genre that requires one to spend time investigating and evaluating sources with the intent to offer interpretations of the texts, and not unconscious regurgitations of those sources. The goal of a research paper is not to inform the reader what others have to say about a topic, but to draw on what others have to say about a topic and engage the sources in order to thoughtfully offer a unique perspective on the issue at hand.

NOTE FOR YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY:

When you turn in your paper, list at least 5 different resources that you used for your research. One of them has to be a book. Online resources are **MUST** be academic (**for instance, do not use Wikipedia, Encyclopedia Britannica, etc.**)

JSTOR is incredibly useful for articles for research. In general, be careful with using google for research. There are a lot of uninformed websites out there, with information that is not only misleading, but sometimes just plain wrong. Having a url does not mean your source is necessarily academic, or even right.

FORMAL ANALYSIS

You must look closely at the work and write down your observation. Allow your eye to absorb the image. Making a sketch of the work can help you understand its visual logic.

A formal analysis includes:

I. Factual Information: Artist, title, date, medium, and size

Formal Characteristics: What does this work look like and why? Choose three of the following major characteristics to focus on in your FA:

- Form- an object's shape and structure; in two dimensions or in three dimensions
- Composition- how to organize forms in an art work; What is main figure? How are other figures placed in relation to main figure? What is left out? Is the balance symmetrical or

asymmetrical? Are there any implied shapes that dominate the composition? How does the eye move across the piece? How does the composition control that movement?

- Material and technique- Is the sculpture carved out of wood, stone, marble, or cast in bronze? How did the artist carry out those processes?
- Line-How is line used in the work? Are the dominant linear elements seen in the forms themselves, or are they incised on the surface of the forms? Are the lines thick or thin? Largely vertical or horizontal? Straight or curved? What is achieved by this particular use of line?
- Color- primary colors, complementary colors, or warm or cool colors? Bright or muted? Is it representational or expressive? Does the artist limit the color range?
- Texture- the quality of a surface; What are the implied or simulated textures? What are the actual or tactile textures?
- Space, mass, and volume- Is the work imposing in size? To what degree does the object display space? Is recession into depth or projection into the beholder's space suggested? Is it meant to be seen from a certain viewpoint? How are the elements of the work configured in that space?
- Proportion and scale- relationship of the parts.
- Light- How is light used? How is shadow used? Is there any play between the two? What is communicated to the viewer?
- Focal point- What catches your eye first and why?
- Other visual appearances of the work; How do the various formal elements of the work interact? ; What elements of the composition work to constitute the artist's style?

III. Subject or Iconography:

What does the art work depict? Does it tell a story? Are there any symbols or clues to the narrative? Is the subject religious, mythological, a portrait, a landscape, etc.?

IV. Function and Context (Significance):

Why was the artwork made and how was it used by people in that time and place?

Who was the intended audience? What does the work say about the period in which it was created? Does the work have specific historical significance? You will discuss the significance of the work in relation to the movement or the stylistic development of the artist who executed and what influenced the artist and the work. You should discuss about the culture, politics, economy, and religion of the time period and how the work fits with or challenges them.

Other things to keep in mind:

You need to formulate a thesis statement: Make a list of what interests you in relation to the artwork and the artist. Narrow down your list to a few possibilities and research your topic using books and

articles. Then you need to come up with a point to argue about your topic. You can develop and refine your thesis as you write and revise. You need to write an outline for your paper to organize your thoughts.

In the introduction, you need to tell the basic facts about the work (factual information). Please include information about the location of your work at the museum (you can submit a map or indicate the location in the introduction). You should state a thesis in which you state an argument about a topic and then describe how you will prove your argument. A thesis statement is an argument/claim, not a statement of fact or an observation. It takes a stand rather than announcing a subject. A thesis is the main idea that explains in some detail what you expect to write about. A thesis statement should be sufficiently narrow and specific, rather than broad or vague, so that it can be fully supported.

In the main body of your paper, you need to support your thesis with your visual analysis combined with informed research. Attention should be paid to paragraph construction. The essay's overall structure and sequence should be logical and transitions between paragraphs should be effective. Each paragraph should develop one central idea and employ transition signals to guide the reader through the progression of your thoughts.

The conclusion should restate your thesis and summarize the main argument of your paper. Your writing should be clear and concise.

Your paper should have a clear and focused topic, an arguable thesis, an organized format and structure, clear and coherent paragraphs, and a command of grammar and style. Pay attention to the squiggly lines in your word processing software! Watch out for passive voice, run-on sentences, fragments, dangling participles, and for the love, please don't end sentences in prepositions. (example: "That is not what I was hoping for." - "for" is a preposition. Google it if you need a little help or go to the writing center! They literally love to help.)

Your paper should include footnotes and a bibliography in the Chicago Manual of Style.
https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

You are expected to use scholarly (books or articles written by experts in the academic field). When you have to use the internet sources, you should cite reliable websites or internet sources (Do not cite Wikipedia - automatic 30 point deduction). To double check whether or not you have an appropriate source, check this website: <https://www.library.illinois.edu/ugl/howdoi/scholarly>.

About using the same source:

If you consecutively cite the same source two or more times in a note (complete or shortened), you may use the word "Ibid" instead. Ibid is short for the Latin *ibidem*, which means "in the same place" so now you can all impress your friends at gatherings. If you're referencing the same source but different page, follow 'Ibid' with a comma and the new page number(s). **See this very exciting example:**

1. Newton N. Minow and Craig L. LaMay, *Inside the Presidential Debates: Their Improbable Past and Promising Future* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008), 24-25.
2. Your Mom, "This is an Article Title," *The Journal that Doesn't Exist* (2019): 1.
3. Minow and LaMay, *Presidential Debates*, 24-25.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid, 28-30.

Your paper must be 6-8 pages (not including title page, bibliography, and images), in a 12-point font, double-spaced, page-numbered, and typed. You should also include a reproduction of the image at a separate page at the end of your paper.

When you include images, do not include the image directly in the text. Instead, write (fig. 1, 2, etc.) and include that at the end of the sentence before the period. Then the images should be included in a single grouping (one image per page please) before the bibliography. You should put the captions (artist, title, date, and medium) below the images.

Grading Rubric

Use this as a checklist before you turn in your paper!

Format: 2 pts.

- Title page: [This information should be on a "front sheet" page, single-spaced. This page does NOT count towards your page count.]
- Title of Your Paper - Be Creative! This is the first thing that will grab your audience. Your Name
- Class Date
- Essay: This information should be double-spaced, in either Times or Garamond font, font size 12, 1 inch margins. You should also include page numbers with your last name before them - see this page as an example.
- Images
- Bibliography

Correct grammar and spelling: 20 pts.

(Correct spelling, punctuation & grammar used throughout. proper noun/verb agreement, correct use of writing voice, clarity of writing, etc.)

Acknowledgement of sources/correct format for bibliography and footnotes: 8 pts.

Any evidence of plagiarism = automatic fail

The following are not acceptable sources for an upper-level college research paper:

Wikipedia, Encyclopedia Britannica, TheArtStory, Visual Arts Cork - get familiar with JSTOR!

Notes should be in Chicago style (see link above) and they should be the same size and font as your main body text. The only difference is that they should be single spaced, not double spaced.

Introduction: 15 pts

- Is there a clear opening sentence that begins the essay well?

- Is the thesis statement in the introduction and is it clear?
- Do I understand what the essay will talk about from reading the intro?

Main Body of Essay - Quality of artistic observation & formal and contextual analysis 35 pts.

- Does the essay "flow" well - do the ideas expressed by the writer make sense sequentially? Are the ideas expressed in the essay well-developed? (e.g. does the essay read like a series of continually-deepening and connected ideas or is it just a list of statements of fact?)
- Does the essay clearly connect with the formal elements of the work(s), materials, or stylistic choices made by the artist?
- Does the essay explain how this artwork reflects, coincides with, or challenges the culture in which it was created?

Conclusion: 15 pts.

- Does the writer manage to summarize and conclude his/her essay well?
- Is there a "final sentence" within a concluding paragraph that completes the essay satisfactorily, rather than leaving the essay mid-thought?