**Art Analysis Research Paper**

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| **General Expectations:**   * 3 primary “texts” (2 pieces of art from NGA, 1 poem)   --- If it helps prove your argument, you may consider a 4th text such as an essay or piece of literature   * At least 3 secondary sources * At least 1 of these sources must be a source of ART CRITICISM or LITERARY CRITICISM * 5-7 pages (double spaced, 12 pt Times New roman, 1 inch margins) * MLA formatting for in text citations * Works Cited page with all 6 sources (primary texts and critical sources)—MLA formatted   **Due Dates:**   * **Friday 4/13:** Thesis statement due * **Monday 4/25:** Developed outline due * **Wednesday 4/26:** annotated bibliography due * **Monday 4/30:** 2 pages of paper due (for conferencing with peers & teacher) * **Monday 5/4:** Final paper & final (non-annotated ) bibliography due |

**General Conventions of formal analysis**

* No first person pronouns (I, me, we, you)
* Formal academic diction (avoid clichés like the plague ☺)
* Clear organization that clearly defends your thesis
* **The literary present:** When writing about the arts (literature, music, visual art) write in present tense.
  + Picasso shows his interpretation of the modern age through his abstraction of the human form.
* Focus on Analysis.

**Essay Outline**

* You must provide a **detailed** **typed** outline of your paper. This should be at least **1.5 pages.**
* Include as much detail as possible. Cite your sources throughout. Give quotes as relevant.

**MLA Bibliography:**

* ***Use easybib.com or a similar citation site.***
* Sources should be cited alphabetically and be formatted with a hanging indent.
* You must cite the three works of art in your bibliography
  + Include the artist's name. Give the title of the artwork in italics. Provide the date of composition. If the date of composition is unknown, place the abbreviation *n.d.* in place of the date. Name the medium of the piece, and finally, provide the name of the institution that houses the artwork followed by the location of the institution.
  + **Example**:

Goya, Francisco. The Family of Charles IV. 1800. Oil on canvas. Museo del Prado,

Madrid.

**Annotated bibliography is just like a regular bibliography, except you also explain the sources and their relevance.**

**Sources are still alphabetical, but they should be followed by a (single spaced) rhetorical precís for the source.**

**MLA In-Text Citations**

**For your critical sources:**

* Cite with last name of author and page number (Conrad 45).
* If no author, cite with first 2 words of title.
* Cite when you are paraphrasing, summarizing, or quoting a source.

**For your works of art:**

* When you’ve already mentioned the artist and work in the paragraph, no in text citation is needed:
  + For example: A Greek myth is depicted in Goya's painting *Saturn Devouring His Son*.
* If you don't mention the artist's name, an in text citation is necessary. Cite with their last name (Picasso).
  + For example: A Greek myth is depicted in the painting *Saturn Devouring His Son* (Goya).

**Other Expectations:**

* **Include at least 2 quotes.**
* **One quote must be from a critique on one of your pieces from an expert**

***Your thesis:***

***Be Clear, not Verbose . . .***

* Your introduction should include the names of the three pieces of art, but the thesis ***does not necessarily* need to include the names**.
* The names of the pieces may be included in the lead in sentences to the thesis, rather than in the thesis itself.

**🡪Your thesis must make an insightful assertion about a concept or question and how your three pieces of art deal with that concept.**

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| **A thesis is not . . .** | **A thesis statement is . . .** |
| **A statement of fact or an observation:**  There was a lot of religious art in the 16th century. | **An Assertion or claim:**  The Catholic Church was a major patron of the 16th century, driving the subject matter of art to be primarily religious. |
| **Broad and Vague**  Norman Rockwell’s illustrations were popular in the 1950s. | **Narrow and Specific**  Normal Rockwell’s illustrations reflected cultural concerns of their day. |

**Example lead in sentence & Thesis Statement:**

Kathe Kollwitz’s *Bread (Brot),* James Rosenquist’s *White Bread* and Carlos Dyer’s *Bread Line* depict images of physical sustenance in the form of bread. Through their use of color, subject, and depiction of the human form, these pieces demonstrate the connection between physical and emotional hunger in modern life.

**Outline for paper: \*\* This is a GUIDELINE. Structure your paper as best fits your topic.**

1. **Introduction:** 
   1. Hook: Pithy statement or quote
   2. Lead in sentences (Likely include the names of the paintings)
   3. Thesis
2. **Narration (Background) Paragraphs\*\*** 
   1. Address the artistic period(s) of your pieces
      1. What style of art is typical of the period? Why
   2. Address relevant history of the artists
   3. Address relevant social history
      1. What is going on the world that influences what is going on in the painting? For example: is there a war? A major social change?

\*\* You may choose to embed this background in your individual arguments if it works better. **Regardless, history of artist and period MUST be included in paper somewhere**

1. **Confirmation (Arguments)**
   1. Argument 1: Art Piece #1
      1. Describe/Analyze the piece- rhetorical analysis style. Describe the important details in the piece (consider your notes)
      2. Explain what the piece says about the question of the paper (your thesis statement claim)
   2. Argument 2: Art Piece #2
      1. Describe/Analyze your piece
      2. Explain what the piece says about the question of the paper
   3. Argument 3: Art Piece #3
      1. Describe/Analyze your piece
      2. Explain what the piece says about the question of the paper
2. **Compare/contrast the three pieces \*\*** 
   1. What are similarities in the pieces? Do they address the question in a similar way?
   2. What are the differences? How is their answer to the question different?
   3. Are two pieces similar, and one very different? Why?

\*\*\* This comparison may be embedded within argument if it best suits your purpose. Regardless, it must be addressed.

1. **Conclusion:**
   1. Pull everything together. What do you conclude about the question based on the three pieces? What ultimately do we learn through these pieces and the conversation that they create?
   2. Insightful “drop the mic” conclusion. Leave the reader with something to think about.

**Where do I start for research?**

* Research the artist and the period of art
* Research the events of the time period. What, historically, was going on that would have influenced the painting
* Research Scholarly CRITICISM of the piece
  + This may be difficult for less well known pieces, **but you must include expert criticism of at least one of your three pieces**
  + Note: Criticism does not mean pointing out the flaws. Criticism in art and literature is part of CRITIQUING the piece. It analyzes and evaluates. Just like you are doing, except on a more professional/scholarly level
* Some sites to check out:
  + NGA website in general, find your paintings and see what information is provided
    - Overview: generally has some good information about the history of the painting/artist
    - If available: related content may have audio or video about the painting.
  + Artcyclopedia.com: fairly comprehensive list of art history materials available online
  + Google it! See what you find. Consider credibility