

ARTS 1301: REQUIRED WRITING ASSIGNMENT - WORKSHEET TO ASSIST IN WRITING PAPER

YOUR NAME: _____ STUDENT NUMBER _____

Subject/class: _____

Visit a museum or gallery for your research:

- In Houston, there are several museums located in the museum district near downtown such as the Museum of Fine Arts and the Menil Collection. At the MFAH you can tour the Beck Building or choose the Menil Collection for its smaller more personal setting. Your MFAH tour will take you from ancient Greek and Roman sculpture to early 20th century painting. A tour of the Menil Collection will explore Surrealism, Modernism and ancient artifacts and you should plan to spend no more than 2 hours visiting either institution. The museum websites are <http://www.mfah.org> & <http://www.menil.org>. Check there for information about hours, directions and parking. The MFAH is closed on Mondays – except for Monday holidays and is free on Thursdays. The Menil is always free and is open Wednesday through Sunday and both museums have café's if you need a break.
- Online students who do not live in Houston: email me and I will find a museum or gallery for you to visit.

ASSIGNMENT: Choose TWO ARTWORKS on display at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, The Menil Collection in Houston or an appropriate gallery. Your task is to compare and contrast two artworks. See Chapters 1.1 through 1.10 for a discussion of the visual elements and principles of design. You might want to choose one work you like and one you are not sure about or choose two paintings with different styles or techniques.

Analyze the works of art you have chosen and complete this form. You will need a pencil (no ink in the museum, please), this handout, and you may want to bring your textbook. Once you have completed the handout, you will then compose a two-page paper using the information you recorded along with other interesting elements from your visit. This is a very standard compare and contrast paper and it should include correct grammar and spelling.

****The paper should be in a MS Word document format (.docx or .doc) or Portable Document Format (.pdf).**

*****Submit your paper through the Writing Assignment – Required Submission assignment by the posted due date in the Calendar.**

1

ARTIST #1: _____ ARTIST #2 _____

TITLE: _____ TITLE _____

MEDIUM: _____ MEDIUM _____

REGION / COUNTRY #1 _____ #2 _____

DATE #1 _____ #2 _____

PERIOD OR STYLE: #1 _____ #2 _____

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2

CULTURAL CONTEXT: In what culture or country was the artist living when the work was produced? Where is the artist from? How might that have influenced how the work looks? What else was going on that might have influenced the work?

#1 _____

#2 _____

3

VISUAL ELEMENTS: Analyze the way the artists use the various visual elements in the work. Try to be specific. Is the color naturalistic or exaggerated? Are lines, colors or shapes used? Is the work characteristic of a particular region, style or culture? Note: Not all of the elements listed will apply to all artworks.

Subject: Who or what is represented?

#1 _____

#2 _____

Technique/Medium: How have the artists used their materials?

#1 _____

#2 _____

Style: Abstract & stylized, naturalistic, idealized?

#1 _____

#2 _____

Iconography: Is there symbolic content?

#1 _____

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#2

Composition: describe the overall arrangement of the elements:

#1

#2

Balance: symmetrical? near symmetrical? or asymmetrical?

#1

#2

Contrast: in color? value? materials?

#1

#2