

Visual Analysis Paper

Assignment Instructions While viewing one of the works on exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston within the Beck Collection of European Art, follow the guidelines below to complete a two to three page paper. Select a work to write about from the recommended list below. You can view the work in person or view a digital image of the work to complete the paper. Visiting the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston is not required.

Requirements: Length: 2 to 3 pages or 550- 750 words You are required to type your paper. No handwritten papers will be accepted. Do not use margins that are more than 1 ½" and do not leave more than 2 ½" at the top and bottom of the page. Include a header with your name, date, and course title. Use 12 point font and double space.

What to include in your paper: 1. Identify the work. Describe the subject matter, the overall form of the work and what you perceive to be the content. 2. Identify the visual elements in the work. Using terms introduced in the textbook, describe how the artist is using them and how they do or do not help to emphasize the subject matter and content of the work 3. Describe the content of the work. Discuss the relationship between the form and content of the work. What are the formal decisions made by the artist and how do these influence the content of the work? Do they help get the artists' message across to their audience. 4. What is your overall opinion of the work and why?

Visual Analysis Paper- Recommended Outline (optional) You can also choose to use the suggested outline to organize your paper and ensure you include all the information required.

- I. Introductory Paragraph a. identify the artist and title of the work b. identify the subject matter of the work c. describe the overall form (use terms from Introduction Module) d. describe the general content of the work as you perceive it e. identify prominent visual elements the artist uses in the work (2 to 3)
- II. II. Visual Element #1 (paragraph two) a. opening statement that offers a general description of how the artist is using visual element #1 For instance: Pablo Picasso used warm and cool colors in the abstract portrait of his wife. b. supportive statement 1- select an area of the work and specifically identify visual element #1 and describe how the artist is using it For instance: Picasso used a bright and saturated yellow to paint her hat and dress. c. supportive statement 2 – offer a second statement that continues to describe how the artist is using visual element #1 For instance: The yellow of the hat and dress contrasts with areas of the sky Picasso painted with cool shades of blue. d. supportive statement 3 and 4- offer additional statements that describe the artist's use of visual element #1 and offer your opinion on visual element #1 For instance: The clear light blue sky looks like one on a perfect summer day. The warmth of the yellows hints at a cool glass of lemonade we all welcome in the summer sun.
- III. Visual Element #2 (paragraph three) Repeat "a" through "d" above
- IV. Visual Element #3 (paragraph four) Repeat "a" through "d" above
- V. Describe the relationship between the Form and Content of the work (paragraph five) a. opening statement that offers a general description of your view of the relationship between the form and content of the work For instance: Picasso's abstract use of color and space expresses a sense of happiness and perfection. b.-d. 3-4 supportive statements that provide additional reasons you see this relationship between the form and content. You can

refer back to the comparison of Rodin's Kiss to Brancusi's Kiss in the Introduction Module to review the importance of the relationship between Form and Content

VI. Your overall opinion of the work (paragraph six) This is pretty much a free for all and your chance to discuss the work in a very subjective and personal way. Why do you like it? Does it remind you of something? Do you feel the work has value? If so, why?

Tips for successfully completing your paper:

- When selecting visual elements to discuss, go for the most obvious.
- When discussing each visual element, be sure to incorporate terms from the chapters on visual elements into your discussion. For example, if you're discussing color, terms used could be: color scheme, saturated, muted, tint, shade, complementary colors, analogous, primary, secondary, intermediate, warm, cool, etc.
- Offer as many visual descriptions of the work that support your analysis as you can. This will ensure your discussion is thorough.
- If your paper feels too short, you can compare the work to another included in the textbook, in which the artist has a similar use of visual elements. You can also include a discussion of how the work is balanced if you need to lengthen your paper. Including a discussion of principles of design in your paper is optional.
- Always use the Spelling and Grammar review function in Word to identify and correct spelling and grammatical errors- numerous errors will lower your grade
- Keep in mind that a strong paragraph has 3 to 5 sentences.