

Museum Writing Exercise**Requirements**

1. At the museum, view the exhibitions, and read the text panels that are featured with the shows.
2. Take notes, so that you can finish this assignment after your museum visit.
3. Type your essay and print it out. It is due in class on the day provided on your calendar. If you have printing issues, email the essay to yourself and print in class. Your essay should be 1-2 pages, single-spaced, with no larger than 12 point font.
4. Your essay must include information as requested below.
5. Your essay must be typed in complete sentences.
6. If you would like additional help with your essay, contact the Writing Center on campus, room 428, M-TH 9:00am-6:30pm, F 9:00am-3:00pm, Sat 8:00am-12:00pm. EXT. 5269

First Paragraph: (one image)

Select your favorite photograph in the entire museum.

- List the photographer and title of the artwork.
- Describe the image. List the subject, visual emphasis, and any other important descriptive information.
- Identify and describe 3 things that makes this image stand out. What makes it good? They could be subject, composition, lighting, color, tone, contrast, mood, location, etc.
- What if you were the photographer? Think about what had to happen in order to create this image. Think about the logistics involved:
 - Any special considerations in getting to the location?
 - Any issues with access to area such as permits, authorities, danger?
 - Who would you need the support of (locals, assistants, travel, etc.)?
 - Any special equipment considerations?
 - Any special considerations with subject...people in the images?
 - Any special considerations to get the desired point of view (aerial, etc.)?
 - Any thing else that was involved in planning prior to taking the image?

Second Paragraph: (Formal Critique) (One Image)

Select a different image than what you used in the first paragraph. Select an image that you think has strong formal elements that makes the image successful. The common formal elements are listed below. Ask yourself...how did the photographer use each of these elements. (if some do not apply, you can skip those). You should be able to pick at least 3 elements.

- Direction of light: front, side, back, direct, diffused, silhouette, glowing
- Tone and contrast: high key or mostly light tones, low key or mostly dark tones, full tonal scale or many tones of gray between black and white, low contrast or mostly middle gray values, high contrast or mostly dark and light values with few intermediate grays.
- Color: Color to help with visual emphasis, specific color schemes, color contrast, color harmony
- Focus and depth of field: Sharp overall focus, selective focus, shallow depth of field
- Framing: The way the edges of the image are handled, are shapes cut off, touching the edge, given a wide margin
- Point of View: Overhead, eye level, from below
- Space and perspective: Shallow space, deep space, positive or negative space, compressed or expanded perspective
- Line: linear emphasis of the image curved, straight or broken, horizontal or vertical

...continued on back

Third Paragraph: (Conceptual Critique) (One Image)

Select a third image, different from those used in paragraph 1 & 2. Think about the meaning, concept, idea, emotion, etc. from the image. Think about your interpretation from the image. Ask yourself...how did the photographer use each of these common conceptual ways of creating an image. (If some do not apply, you can skip those). You should be able to pick at least 3 elements.

- Artist's Intention
- What is the overall concept or idea?
- Mood
- Emotion
- Narrative
- Symbolism
- Metaphor
- Reference (Does the image refer to a subject that is common knowledge)
- Context (Is the image best associated with a group of artworks or an art movement)
- Social issues or concerns
- Political issues or concerns
- Environmental issues or concerns
- Does the image make you think about something other than what you actually see in the image?
- Does the image serve as a critique of something in particular?