

Museum Writing Exercise**Requirements**

1. At the museum or gallery, view the exhibition, and read any materials provided.
2. Take notes, so that you can finish this assignment after your museum visit.
3. Type your essay. It can be emailed or printed. It is due in class on the day provided on your calendar. 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

If you need more information on these topics, look at the PPT called "What Make's A Good Photograph?" available on the class website:

<http://micajahteach.com/206/206-powerpoint-presentations/>

First Paragraph: Formal Critique***Look at the shows:***

- ***America's Cathedrals, Beauty and the Beast, or Defying Darkness***

Pick one image among these 3 shows that ***stands out*** to you and can work to analyze as a formal critique.

- List the title, photographer, and a brief description of the image.
- Start by listing why the image stood out to you in the first place. Gut reaction.
- For formal critique, look at the formal elements below. Pick a minimum of 5 of these elements and write about how they are used successfully to create visual emphasis and strong visual image.
 - Composition
 - Light
 - Color
 - Tone & Contrast
 - Shutter Speed & Motion or Stop Action
 - Aperture & Depth of Field
 - Focal Point
 - Simplicity
 - Use of line (leading, converging, diagonals, implied)
 - The Frame
 - Vantage Point
 - Depth
 - Balance (asymmetrical or symmetrical)

Second Paragraph: Conceptual Critique***Look at the shows:***

- ***America's Cathedrals, Beauty and the Beast, Defying Darkness***

Pick one image among these 3 shows that ***stands out*** to you and can work to analyze as a conceptual critique.

- List the title, photographer, and a brief description of the image.
- Start by listing why the image stood out to you in the first place. Gut reaction.

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- For conceptual critique, elements below. Pick a minimum of 2 of these elements and write about how they are used successfully to create an image that makes you think about an idea or concept.
 - The Thing Itself
 - A powerful subject
 - Social Issues
 - Political Issues
 - Historical Significance
 - Expression / Emotion
 - Mood
 - Narrative
 - Interaction
- What does the image make you think about (idea or concept)?
- Are you concerned with more than what you can see in the image? If yes, then elaborate.

Third Paragraph: Seeing is Believing

Many of these images deal with blurred lines between objectivity and subjectivity in some way. Many of them deal with the representation of individuals or groups of people.

- Select an image from this show that is a portrait, or uses the human figure within the photograph. Address the topics and questions below.
 - List the photographer and title of the artwork.
 - Describe the image. What do you see?
 - Why do you find this image interesting?
 - How is the subject (person or persons) represented in this image?
 - What surrounding elements (context) helped you come up with the representation stated above?
 - Did the technical process influence the representation of the person(s)? How?
 - Do choices by the photographer lead to a more accurate representation of the subject or misrepresentation of the subject? Why?