Art Analysis Based on Personal Viewing

Visit a museum or gallery to view at least one, but preferably several, work(s) of African art and complete the assignment given below by the end of Unit 5.

Then write a 3 to 4 page essay to be organized as a comparison, an overview, or a theme-based paper.

Please follow these steps:

1. While browsing your selected collection, take detailed notes on 2 or 3 works of focus for the assignment. Include such information as the descriptive data on labels and wall texts (for later reference) and a description and rough sketch of the selected objects' formal qualities.
2. Once back at home, decide your format (comparative, overview, or theme-based) and give the paper a working title (that may be refined when you are finished).
3. Near the essay's start, present the main idea or format you will be following, mentioning the artwork or artworks' title(s), where you viewed it/them, and whether it/they is/are owned by that institution or are part of another collection.
4. Next, write a detailed, formal description of the work(s) while including some cultural and historical contexts based on general information from the course materials and the museum's labels.
5. Find one or two additional websites that provide more insight into an aspect of your topic and use those sources to discuss your selected artwork(s).
6. At the end of your paper, created a section titled "References" listing all the websites and/or articles (including authors if given) you have used.

Note that the work(s) you choose need not be specific to material we have covered in depth so far. The thrust of the assignment is to describe artwork based on an in-person viewing and discuss general ideas about African art considered in the course so far, supplemented with the requested web resources. You may also look ahead, for example, if you wish to choose an object from Central Africa. (Remember you have resources on the course worksheet to find works of African art as well as writing guides.)

Excluding the museum visit itself, this assignment should take 3 to 5 hours from notes through proofreading, preferably spread over 2 or 3 days so that you can consider the course material a bit more.