

**ARTH207: Writing Assignment #2:
Comparing and Contrasting Fragonard's *The Meeting*
and Rembrandt's *The Nightwatch***

Assignment Overview:

Write a 3–5 page essay comparing and contrasting Fragonard's *The Meeting* from his Progress of Love series, which you recently viewed in the Fragonard Room at The Frick Collection, to Rembrandt's *The Nightwatch*, which you viewed in the Rijksmuseum. While you will be writing about two specific paintings, think of this assignment as a way to reveal what you have learned about Rococo art in France and its relationship to the earlier Baroque period as exemplified by Rembrandt van Rijn.

General Readings: University of Arkansas at Little Rock: Art History Department: "Guidelines for Analysis of Art"; Skidmore College: Art History Department: "Visual Analysis Tips"; and University of Minnesota, Morris: Julia K. Dabbs: "Comparison Essay Example—Principles of Art."

Links: University of Arkansas at Little Rock: Art History Department: "[Guidelines for Analysis of Art](#)"; Skidmore College: Art History Department: "[Visual Analysis Tips](#)"; and University of Minnesota, Morris: Julia K. Dabbs: "[Comparison Essay Example—Principles of Art](#)"

Instructions: Before getting started on your essay, please review each of the webpages listed above, which serve as guidance for writing a comparison essay. Once you have reviewed each of these pages to your satisfaction, you can begin writing your essay. Review the images assigned for this comparison and take careful notes, considering every imaginable detail that might be important in terms of subject matter and style. To assist you in writing your essay, you may wish to return to some of the lectures and readings about Rembrandt and Fragonard to remind yourself of the important issues in Dutch Baroque and Rococo painting as well as what is most important about these two artists in particular.

Then, move on and carefully consider the similarities and differences between these two works of art and what those similarities and differences might signify. Your mastery of Rococo art will be revealed by how well you can show the similarities between these paintings and the Baroque example as well as how well you can discuss the ways in which Rococo art diverged from the art of the Baroque. To do this, you will need to do more than just describe the works of art; you need to use your observations to construct a thoughtful discussion that reveals something about Rococo art and culture.

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