

ARTH207: Writing Assignment #3: One Image as Representative of Its Period

Assignment Overview:

For this final writing assignment, you are asked to write a 3–5 page essay on the work of art of your choosing from the many works of art discussed in this course. You are tasked with analyzing this work of art (you can choose a painting, a sculpture, or a building) and using the example you have chosen to illustrate the major themes of its period. For example, if you choose a work of art from Unit 1, you should analyze the work of art and show how it is representative of Italian/Spanish Baroque; if you choose a work of art from Unit 4, you should analyze the work of art, showing how it is representative of Rococo art; and so on. As with the comparison essays you completed earlier in this course, you should think of this assignment as a way to reveal what you have learned about a given culture and period in art history.

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 the two webpages listed above, which serve as guidance for writing visual analysis essays. Once you have reviewed each of these pages to your satisfaction, you can move on and begin writing your essay. Think carefully about which work of art you want to discuss, considering which works of art you think will provide the most fuel for discussion and also considering which work of art you think is most representative of its art historical period.

Depending on which work of art you choose to analyze, it will make sense to return to the lectures and/or reading assignments that introduce that work of art, to refresh your memory. Next, you should closely look at the image, considering style, subject matter, and any other relevant questions. Then carefully construct your analysis of the work of art. While this is not, strictly speaking, a comparison essay, you will find that making comparisons to other works of art discussed in this class will help you make a clearer, more effective analysis. Your analysis will reveal your mastery of one period of art history, but how you draw this into the broader context of this course will show your mastery of the entire “Baroque to Neoclassical” span of Western art.

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