

Throughout this unit, we will be discussing Art and its impact on culture and society. We will be asking questions such as “How does art reflect, drive, or challenge society and its cultural norms and values?” We will examine many works of art from various historical periods in order to gain insight, ultimately, to the cultural work which our contemporary art accomplishes and how art acts as commentary for some of the most pressing issues within society.

For your paper, you should analyze one (1) or two (2) works of art (I.e., painting, sculpture, architecture, etc.) and discuss how these works address, reflect, or challenge social or political issues, cultural values, or events (I.e., gay marriage, racism, war, religion, etc.), how your selected work(s) treats them, and the possible outcomes or conclusions that the work(s) offers. If you choose to analyze two works, you should tie these two works together so that you have a single cohesive idea and your paper is uniform rather than two separate papers combined into one. For example, if you choose 2 works, they should both address the same issue or idea so that you can write an edifying, unified argument. It would serve you well to also understand the cultural context from which your chosen work(s) has emerged. You are heavily encouraged to discuss not just the work of art you have chosen, but also the issue that you feel it addresses. For instance, if you choose a work of art which addresses racism and was made in the 1960's, your paper should also address racism of the 1960's (and/ or racism in general) so that you can recreate the cultural context of the work(s) faithfully.

When choosing your work, it can be very helpful for you in the writing process if you purposefully choose a work of art which interests you personally. If you are interested in your writing, your reader will be also. If you have any trouble in choosing your work, please contact me as soon as possible so that we might resolve any issues quickly. **Please offer any insights that you may have about your chosen work in order to connect it, or the ideas which your work addresses, to some personal experience. We are all a part of our society which means that art addresses us all on some level. Give your readers personal reactions to your chosen piece in order to connect the piece to the human condition.**

Questions to consider when writing your paper . . .

- What are the particular issues addressed in your chosen work(s)?
- Why are these issues important within the work(s)?
- How does the work(s) you are examining address social and/ or political issues?
- How does the work(s) treat these issues?
- Does the work(s) suggest any solutions or compromises to these issues?
- Why is the particular art form you are writing about conducive to openly discussing this particular political issue within society?

This paper is to be no shorter than 5 full, double spaced pages in length and written in Times New Roman 12pt font with 1” margins. Any papers which do not meet these basic requirements will not be eligible to receive a passing grade. Your paper should also have a properly formatted bibliography (MLA format) which contains no fewer than 2 sources (I.e., the readings from our class, journal articles, newspaper articles, etc.) which will help support your argument. Your bibliography will **not** count as one of your 5 written pages. All pages should be numbered and stapled together. In the spirit of environmental consciousness, please do not use a cover page. For a comprehensive break-down of the grading criteria, please see <http://www.uky.edu/AS/English/writprog/GradingC.htm>.

As always, you are heavily encouraged to visit the writing center as often as possible. The consultants offer help on any aspect of your paper from pre-writing to research to bibliographies to expanding and clarifying your ideas. Take advantage of this resource as it can only help.