



Barbara Kruger. **Your Gaze Hits the Side of My Face.** 1981 – 83.

## Writing Your Research Paper

Students are required to write a Research Paper that adequately covers a topic relevant to this course. The paper should reflect extensive research on at least three different artworks and should demonstrate a basic understanding and application of the descriptive techniques and art historical methodologies learned this semester.

Whether you are investigating the career of a single artist, a particular period of art history, or a specific art historical issue, you will need to analyze specific works of art to demonstrate the concerns of your topic and to support your arguments.

**Due Date:** May 2

**Points Possible:** 40 + 20 + 20 + 120 = 200 points

**Length:** An adequate discussion of the topic, on average a minimum of 5 pages

**Format:** MLA – Modern Language Association

## Requirements

**At least four credible sources of information originating on paper** (magazine articles, books, pamphlets) should be cited within your paper. A proper citation includes an in-text notation and the full bibliographic information on a "Works Cited" page.

An in depth **discussion of at least three artworks** demonstrating your ability to use the art historical methodologies to understand the works and interpret their meaning. This discussion should provide a detailed formal description and utilize at least one art historical methodology to analyze and understand the works. Your research and citations should support your analysis.

**Consideration of the social, political and cultural context** under which the artworks discussed were created and related to the paper topic.

**Proper and appropriate MLA citations** are vital. It is important that you give credit to any source of facts, information or ideas that you did not completely create on your own. Please consult your instructor's **Formatting a Research Paper** pamphlet for further information on documenting your sources.

## Recommended Steps

1. **Research** your topic
  - Search library catalogs for books
  - Search Chaffey's online databases for relevant magazine articles from Chaffey library's web page > click on "Agent" > provide student id# and birth date > "Databases A to Z" > Infotrac One File and "JStor" are highly recommended
  - Search the internet taking the credibility of the author and institution providing the information into account
  - Search your textbook :0)
2. Write an **outline**
  - Organize the information you would like to share, the points you would like to make, the artworks you plan on analyzing and any citations you plan on making
3. Write a **rough draft**
4. Have a trusted colleague **proofread your rough draft**
  - Use the feedback provided by your partner to add, revise and clarify what you have already written.
5. **Review** your second draft and make necessary corrections.
  - Use the research paper rubric to evaluate what you have written.
  - Have you included all of the necessary information and required components?

Are there parts that could be added to, condensed or clarified?

Have you included in-text and full bibliographic entries on your Works Cited page for all citations?

6. **Finalize** by printing your paper, saving a copy and reviewing it once more to ensure that all of the requirements have been met.

**Useful Definitions**

Research = a systematic inquiry or investigation into a subject in order to discover or revise facts, theories, & applications

Analyze = to examine carefully and in detail so as to identify causes, key factors, possible results and essential elements

Critical evaluation = to appraise the value of; to judge or determine the significance, worth or quality of

Art historical methodology = a method of evaluating and understanding a work of art. Among the most common are formalism, iconography, Marxism, Feminism, semiotics, biography and psychoanalysis.

Credibility = A "credible" source is one that is written by someone who has studied the subject extensively and has some authority over the topic. Importantly, credible sources take great care to credit the sources of their information, inspiration and research!

Citation = to cite or quote a source of information or an author. You are to follow MLA citation guidelines which require an in-text citation following any information, idea or direct quote that was not your own idea or common knowledge AND full bibliographic information for that source on a "Works Cited" page. For more information, see the current edition of the Modern Language Association's Handbook for Writers of Research Papers or your instructor's MLA pamphlet.

Adequate discussion of topic			out of 25 points
Reflects extensive research		out of 15 points	
Uses methodologies to support analysis		out of 10 points	
Consideration of specific works of art			out of 35 points
Three artworks discussed in depth		out of 6 points	
Descriptions provided		out of 9 points	
Use of art historical methodologies to analyze		out of 20 points	
MLA format			out of 15 points
Margins, font, spacing, etc.		out of 5 points	
Works Cited Page		out of 10 points	
Citations			out of 30 points
Four paper sources cited		out of 12 points	
Use of credible sources		out of 12 points	
Citations given when appropriate		out of 6 points	
Consideration of social, political and cultural context			out of 10 points
Style & clarity (a.k.a. spelling, grammar and ease of read)			out of 5 points
<b>Total</b>			out of 120 points