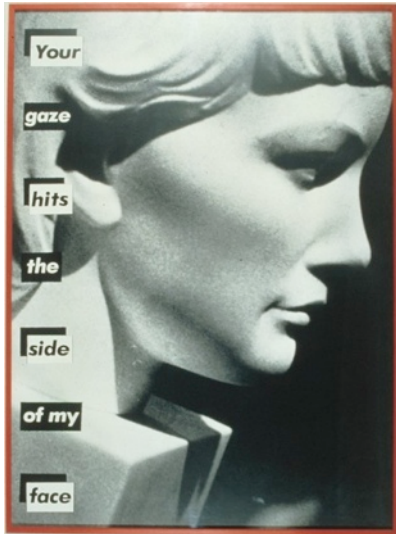


Writing Your Research Paper



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

Your paper should reflect extensive research on a topic that has been approved by the instructor. “Research” is a systematic investigation into a subject in order to discover or revise facts, theories and applications. When researching an art historical subject, you will need to search for information on artists, historical periods, artistic styles and critiques of artworks that are associated with your topic.

Whether you are investigating the career of a single artist, a particular period of art history, or a specific art historical issue or theme, you will need to analyze specific works of art to demonstrate the concerns of your topic and to support your arguments. Your discussion should include detailed descriptions of the artworks that assume the reader has not seen the work and does not have a photographic reproduction available as they read. As well, be sure to include personal insights, interpretations and responses to the artworks utilizing the art historical methodologies learned in Community #2. Finally, your paper should include a consideration of the social, political and cultural contexts that the artworks were made.

Due Date: May 9

Points: 85 paper + 5 topic report + 5 paper plan + 5 source report = 100 points

Length: Adequate discussion of the topic, an average of 5 pages, at least 10 pages for Honors

Requirements

At least three credible sources of information originating on paper should be cited in the body of your paper. These sources include articles, books, and pamphlets.

Honors students must cite no less than six sources originating on paper.

Proper and appropriate MLA citations are vital. It is important that you give credit to any source of facts, information or ideas that did not entirely derive from you. Information that is part of the public domain like an artist’s birth date or the name of an exhibition she participated in does not need to be cited. However, information that is not that the writer cannot assume a reader in their field would happen to know must be cited using MLA guidelines. Consult the **Formatting a Research Paper** pamphlet for further information on documenting sources.

An in depth **discussion of at least two artworks** that relate to your topic. This discussion should include detailed formal descriptions of the works and utilize at least one art historical methodology to develop a scholarly understanding of the work.

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

Remember that **the focus is on a critical analysis of the works**, not an artist’s biography!

Steps

1. **Research** your topic
 - Search library catalogs for books
 - Search Chaffey's online databases for relevant magazine articles from the 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. Complete **Community Assignment #5**
 - Use the feedback to add, revise and clarify what you have already written
5. **Review** your second draft and make necessary corrections
6. 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 of the necessary citations?
7. **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 etc.

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. The most common western art historical methodologies include 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.