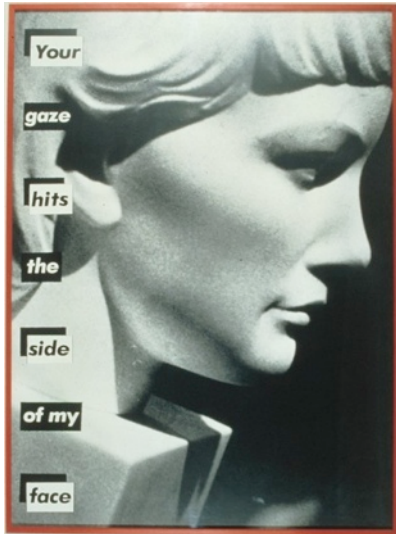


Writing Your Research Paper



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

“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, in your paper, you should analyze specific works of art to demonstrate the concerns of your topic and to support your ideas in relation to that subject. You may also want to include your personal insights, interpretations and responses to the artworks in your discussion. As well, your paper should include a consideration of the social, political and cultural context that the artworks were created under. Your paper should reflect extensive research on your topic.

Research Paper Topic: _____

Due Date: May 10

Points Possible: 90 points + 5 point topic report + 5 point source report = 100 points

Length: An adequate discussion of the topic, about 4 to 5 pages

Format: MLA – Modern Language Association

Requirements

Once you have researched your topic, the paper that you write should include:

At least three 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 two artworks** that relate to your topic. This discussion should provide a detailed formal description and utilize at least one art historical methodology to analyze and understand the works.

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.

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 of the necessary 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 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.