

## *Modern Art Final Essay Instructions - Updated May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024*

**Requirements (if you do not do these things exactly you cannot get higher than a B on the paper):**

- Name, title, 1-inch margins, PDF or .doc, .docx file ONLY
- 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, double spaced
- 4-8 pages, Include Title, and Source Citation (YOU must have 3-5 peer reviewed scholarly sources in your bibliography)
- You must also submit the Final Paper Rubric with your paper (attached below)

*What is the final essay research topic?*

The topic of the essay is up to you. It must be related to Modern Art, ideally a historical topic, artist, movement, or conceptual idea rooted from events and people from the years 1850 to 1960. If you have a topic that you are concerned goes outside these parameters, check with me.

*What is the purpose of the final essay?*

By the time you are getting ready to begin your final essay, you will already have written a museum paper using formal analysis. Your museum paper was a test of your visual analysis and how well you can communicate your experience of observing an artwork without any research. The final paper incorporates research using other articles or chapters. I highly recommend sticking with the same artwork or topic (for example, if you chose a work by Paul Signac, focus on Signac and Pointillism/neo-Impressionism for your final paper) Make sure that you are not starting over from scratch and writing about a different topic! You now need to choose secondary scholarly sources (**3 minimum**) that are peer-reviewed to incorporate with the analysis you've already done and form a strong thesis statement to ground your argument.

*How should I prepare?*

I highly recommend using the outline template that I've provided on Manifold. You should start by asking yourself what you want to say about the artworks and find sources that are going to help you make the point you want to address. You need a clear thesis statement that will likely go through multiple drafts.

*How will I be graded?*

You will use the final paper self-graded rubric for this assignment.

*What is the long-term purpose of this assignment?*

This final essay will allow you to practice preparing for longer papers that will come up over the course of your academic careers. It aims to take the overwhelming and daunting parts of writing and replace them with practical planning and organization over time that alleviates procrastination, stress, and traditional exam pressure. Ideally, it also invites you to add depth to the artwork of your choice this semester so that you can walk away with more knowledge on visual material that you're passionate about.

**Self-Grading WRITING ASSESSMENT RUBRIC – Final Paper**

	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Beginner</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
Argument (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A persuasive thesis statement is presented as an argument and accurately relates to the content of the paper.</li> <li>- Ideas presented demonstrate strong and creative engagement with the material.</li> <li>- Provides convincing evidence in support of the thesis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A thesis is stated as an argument, but is simple, not persuasive, or not representative of the overall content.</li> <li>- Ideas presented demonstrate a familiarity with the material.</li> <li>- Provides adequate evidence, but some of it is either incorrect or irrelevant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The paper show direction but lacks a clear thesis statement or is not argumentative.</li> <li>- Ideas presented do not demonstrate a full understanding of the material.</li> </ul>	
Organization (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Structure of the paper is clear and easy to follow.</li> <li>- Paragraph transitions are logical and maintain the flow of thought throughout the paper.</li> <li>- Conclusion brings the argument back to the claim in a meaningful way.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Structure is mostly clear and easy to follow.</li> <li>- Paragraph transitions are present.</li> <li>- Conclusion summarizes the claim.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organization and structure detract from the message of the writer.</li> <li>- Paragraphs are disjointed and lack transition of thoughts.</li> </ul>	
Format and Length (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Paper uses a variety of their own critical thinking and sources to support their argument</li> <li>- Paper fulfills length requirements.</li> <li>- Font and spacing fulfills requirements.</li> <li>-sources are cited correctly as is (are) the artwork(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paper has mostly correct citations.</li> <li>- Paper is the required length.</li> <li>- Font or Spacing is mostly correct.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paper uses citations but with many errors.</li> <li>- Paper length is inadequate or excessive in a way that distracts from the assignment.</li> <li>- Numerous formatting issues.</li> </ul>	
Voice (10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The author's unique voice appears pervasively throughout the paper.</li> <li>- Information and supporting arguments are from the author and not solely outside sources.</li> <li>-author is creative and innovative with their ideas and how they express them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Author's voice is present throughout most of the paper but relies on regurgitated language to support arguments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paper has no sense of author's voice.</li> </ul>	
Effort (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The author put in as much effort as possible and knows it was their best work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The author could have done better or put in more effort, but decided not to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the author did not put in effort and undermined their capabilities to write and express their ideas well</li> </ul>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>				

Please take a moment to reflect on why you graded yourself the way that you did, giving thought to each category and writing a couple sentences on each (use the back of this paper or another sheet). Note that the “Voice” category has ten points for this assignment as opposed to five for the midterm. Grade accordingly.