

FORMAL ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT

Due via TurnItIn on Tuesday, May 17, at 11:59 PM

Topic: For your assignment, choose a modern European object (e.g. French, British, 19th-20th centuries) to look at closely in person by visiting a Los Angeles museum in person, and then write a formal analysis of it. You are encouraged to select an object from one of the museums listed below. For this assignment, you do not need to conduct any research.

The goal of your formal analysis should be to explain how the formal elements of a work of art affect the representation of the subject matter and expressive content. A starting question for your inquiry can be: How can an active observation allow you as a viewer to discern the organization of a work of art? In terms of your analysis, you must introduce and contextualize your descriptions of the formal elements of the work so that the reader understands how each element influences the work's overall effect on the viewer (think of formal elements as building blocks). Your formal analysis should enable the reader to imagine how the artwork looks even if they have not seen it themselves. Finally, by illuminating meaningful connections, it should prompt you to arrive at a broader interpretation of the work.

The inclusion of a thesis statement is thus highly recommended. The thesis should provide a framework for your analysis and communicate your interpretation of the work. A thesis statement does not necessarily involve a statement of argument or original insight. For the purposes of this assignment, it can speculate—on the basis of the formal analysis—about the chosen work's subject matter.

Format: The assignment will be in the format of an essay, 4-5 pages in length. It should be typed (12-point font), Times New Roman, double-spaced, paginated, and have standard (one-inch) margins. Your essay should be written in coherent, flowing paragraphs. No bullet points. Lastly, make sure you proofread your essay for grammar and spelling before you hand it in. Include the image of the work you are describing and a label.

Los Angeles Museums:

1. Fowler Museum
2. Los Angeles County Museum of Art
3. Getty Center
4. The Wende Museum
5. Norton Simon Museum
6. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

7. UCLA Sculpture Garden