

SACRED & SECULAR ART OF SOUTH ASIA

Five Page Guideline for Final Research Paper

Students will select one Hindu, Islamic or Buddhist sacred or secular object / architectural form and contrast it with at least one other, in terms of its history, form, functionality and social and cultural value. You may begin by asking the following questions:

What are their titles?

What do they describe or depict?

What is their tone or mood?

What is their form?

Who created them?

When were they created?

Why do you think they were created as they were?

What themes do they address?

Do you think one is of higher quality or greater merit than the other(s) -- and if so, why?

IDENTIFICATION (DESCRIPTION). What is the architectural form?

a. What is its history (who made it, when, why, etc.)?

b. Material. What is it made of?

c. Construction. How is it made (to achieve its functions)?

d. What does its design consist of?

e. What are its functions?

Intended:

Unintended:

CULTURAL ANALYSIS.

a. When and by whom is the form used? What are its appropriate contexts?

b. What function(s) or roles did it perform for its makers and users?

c. What kinds of social behavior are associated with it?

d. What does it mean for those who use it?

INTERPRETATION:

Summarize your interpretation about the significance of this form.

What ideas or experiences or conventions from my culture influence how I think about this object or what I think its importance might be?

