



UNIT 4 — TOUCHSTONE 4: Art and Architecture: Uniting Culture, Innovation, and Religious Ideals

-/200

☐ Ready

☐ Submitted

☐ Graded

You can work on a Touchstone whenever you want, but you must complete the previous assessments in the Unit before you can submit it.

SUBMIT TOUCHSTONE

ⓘ Based on current turnaround times, Touchstones are graded within 2-4 business days on average.

Touchstone 4: Art and Architecture: Uniting Culture, Innovation, and Religious Ideals

Overview

What You Will Learn: You will explore how art and architecture intersect with culture, innovation, and religious expression.

Why It Matters: This paper will demonstrate your ability to put a work of art or piece of architecture in its historical context by

- explaining how earlier works of art bring about artistic innovation.
- how works reflect the religious culture that produced them.

What You Will Hand In: A 4 - 5 page (1,000 - 1,200 word) paper saved as a Microsoft Word (.docx or .doc) file.

Keys to Success:

- Develop and submit original work.
- Select four works of art or architecture described in the tutorials; two that exemplify innovation and two that exemplify religious expression.
- Put the works in an appropriate historical context, two in the context of innovation and two in the context of religious significance.
- Use only the Sophia tutorials as source material. No external sources are allowed.

Helpful Links:

- [Academic Integrity Guidelines](#)
- [Ethical Standards and Appropriate Use of AI](#)
- [APA Style: Citation Help](#)

Instructions

Step 1: Review the Tutorials and Select Four Examples

- Select two works of art **described in the tutorials** that exemplify innovation; this innovation may be stylistic, technological, or both.

[Open a list of suggested works. You may choose from this list, but you are not required to.](#) _

- Stonehenge - Salisbury Plain, England
- The Great Ziggurat of Ur - Ur, Iraq
- The Parthenon - Athens, Greece
- The Pantheon - Rome, Italy
- Florence Cathedral - Florence, Italy
- Trajan's Column - Rome, Italy
- The Lion Gate at Mycenae - Mycenae, Greece
- House Altar depicting Akhenaten, Nefertiti, and their three daughters - Berlin, Germany
- Dome of the Rock - Jerusalem

- Select two works of art **described in the tutorials** that exemplify religious expression.

[Open a list of suggested works. You may choose from this list, but you are not required to.](#) _

- Venus of Willendorf - Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria
- Rapa Nui Moai - Easter Island, Polynesia
- Hypostyle Hall and Entrance Colonnade at Djoser Complex - Saqqara, Egypt
- Large Kneeling Statue of Hatshepsut - Deir el-Bahri, Thebes, Upper Egypt
- Great Pyramid of Khufu - Giza, Egypt
- Basilica of San Vitale - Ravenna, Italy
- Great Stupa - Sanchi, India

- Shiva Nataraja (Lord of the Dance) - Tamil Nadu, India
- Chartres Cathedral - Chartres, France
- Angkor Wat - Siem Reap, Cambodia

Step 2: Write the Touchstone

- Write your paper about the four works, following this basic structure:
 1. **Introduction** (100-200 words): provide a broad overview of the paper, the claims you will defend, and the works of art you will describe.
 2. **Innovation** (300-500 words): give the historical and cultural context for each of the works of art you have selected and describe how these works both emerged from existing traditions and introduced new ideas in either style or technology. Compare and contrast the two works.
 3. **Religious Expression** (300-500 words): give the historical and cultural context for each of the works of art you have selected and describe how these works represent the religious ideals of the culture that produced them. Compare and contrast the two works.
 4. **Conclusion** (100-200 words): Summarize your analysis and provide closure to the paper.



HINT

To build the skill of correctly citing your sources in academic writing, you should cite each tutorial with the four examples you describe in your paper. Because all of your sources will be Sophia tutorials, the in-text citations will look like this:

- In-text citation: (Romanesque Architecture, n.d.)
- Reference: Sophia Learning, L.L.C. (n.d.) *Romanesque Architecture*. In Art History I. Sophia Learning. <https://app.sophia.org/tutorials/romanesque-architecture-6>

Adjust the citation and reference to name the tutorial you are referencing!

[Share your feedback on Touchstones](#)

Step 3: Review and Submit Your Work

- Review your work carefully and check the rubric to make sure you have met all the requirements. Submit as a Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) file.

We hope this assignment gives you a chance to reflect further on the works of art and architecture that struck a chord with you. Have fun, and good luck!

Rubric

	Advanced (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Acceptable (75%)	Needs Improvement (50%)
Innovations: Selection of Examples Selects two innovative aspects of art or architecture that are relevant to the assignment prompt. (8%)	Demonstrates a clear understanding of two chosen examples and their relevance to innovation.	Selects two relevant examples with a clear connection to innovation. More details could be provided, or minor inaccuracies may be present.	Selects two relevant examples, but the connection to innovation may be vague.	Selects only one relevant example.
Innovations: Historical Context Provides an overview of the historical context surrounding the two chosen innovations, supported by citations referring to specific course tutorials. (10%)	Provides a comprehensive and insightful overview of the historical context surrounding the two chosen innovations, supported by citations that are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Provides an overview of the historical context of the two chosen innovations. More details could be provided, or minor inaccuracies may be present. The historical overview is supported by citations that are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Offers a basic overview of the historical context of the two chosen innovations, but some key details may be missing. The historical overview is supported by citations that are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Attempts an overview of the historical context of at least one of the two chosen innovations. Citations may be missing, inaccurate, or refer to sources outside the course material.
Innovations: Analysis of Innovations Provides an analysis of how the two chosen innovations build upon past techniques or styles, supported by citations referring to specific course tutorials. (12%)	Provides a sophisticated analysis of how the chosen innovation builds upon past techniques or styles, demonstrating a deep understanding. The analysis is supported by citations that are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Provides a clear analysis of the two chosen innovations. More details could be provided, or minor inaccuracies may be present. The analysis is supported by citations that are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Offers a basic analysis, but may miss some key elements of the innovations' development. The analysis is supported by citations that are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Attempts an analysis of how at least one of the two chosen innovations builds upon past techniques or styles. Citations may be missing, inaccurate, or refer to sources outside the course material.
Innovations: Comparative Analysis Provides a comparative analysis highlighting both similarities and differences in the expressions of innovation. (13%)	Provides a highly insightful comparative analysis with a deep understanding of the similarities and differences in their expression of innovation.	Provides a comparative analysis that discusses both similarities and differences in the examples' expressions of innovation. More details could be provided, or minor inaccuracies may be present.	Offers a basic comparative analysis of both similarities and differences in the examples' expressions of innovation, but may miss some key elements.	Attempts an analysis of either similarities or differences in the examples' expressions of innovation.
Religious Expression: Selection of Examples Selects two specific works of art or	Selects two exemplary works of art or architecture that represent a wide range	Selects two works of art or architecture that exemplify religious expression from diverse cultures and	Selects two works of art or architecture that demonstrate some elements of religious	Selects only one relevant work of art or architecture.

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architecture that exemplify religious expression from diverse cultures and religions. (8%)	of cultures and religions.	religions. More details could be provided, or minor inaccuracies may be present.	expression, but may lack diversity.	
Religious Expression: Religious Values and Ideals Provides an analysis of how the selected works embody the ideals and values of their respective culture and religion, supported by citations referring to specific course tutorials. (12%)	Provides a highly insightful analysis with a deep understanding of the religious values and ideals expressed by each work of art/architecture. The analysis is supported by citations that are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Provides a clear analysis of the religious values and ideals expressed by each work of art/architecture. More details could be provided, or minor inaccuracies may be present. The analysis is supported by citations that are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Offers a basic analysis of the religious values and ideals expressed by each work of art/architecture, but may miss some key elements. The analysis is supported by citations that are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Attempts an analysis of the religious values and ideas expressed by at least one of the two works of art/architecture. Citations may be missing, inaccurate, or refer to sources outside the course material.
Religious Expression: Cultural Context Provides an explanation of the background of the religious or cultural beliefs associated with the selected works, supported by citations referring to specific course tutorials. (10%)	Provides a thorough explanation of the cultural context of each example with insightful connections between culture, religion, and the artwork/architecture. The explanation is supported by citations that are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Provides an explanation of the cultural context of the two examples; however, more details could be provided, or minor inaccuracies may be present. The explanation is supported by citations that are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Offers a basic overview of the cultural context of the two examples; however, some key details may be missing. The explanation is supported by citations that are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Attempts an overview of the cultural context of at least one of the two examples. Citations may be missing, inaccurate, or refer to sources outside the course material.
Religious Expression: Comparative Analysis Provides a comparative analysis highlighting both similarities and differences in the expressions of religious values. (13%)	Provides a highly insightful comparative analysis with a deep understanding of the similarities and differences in the examples' expressions of religious values.	Provides a comparative analysis that discusses both similarities and differences in the examples' expressions of religious values. More details could be provided, or minor inaccuracies may be present.	Offers a basic comparative analysis of both similarities and differences in the examples' expressions of religious values, but may miss some key elements.	Attempts an analysis of either similarities or differences in the examples' expressions of religious values.
Introduction and Conclusion Introduction and conclusion set up the assignment and provide a summary of the analysis. (7%)	Both the introduction and conclusion are exceptionally clear, effectively set up the assignment, and provide a comprehensive summary of the analysis.	Both the introduction and conclusion are clear, set up the assignment, and provide a summary of the analysis. Minor improvements could be made to further strengthen the introduction and/or conclusion.	Either the introduction or the conclusion is clear and effectively sets up the assignment and provides a comprehensive summary of the analysis.	Either the introduction or the conclusion is unclear or missing.
Conventions	There are almost no errors in grammar,	There are minor errors in grammar,	There are frequent errors in grammar,	There are consistent errors in grammar,

	Advanced (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Acceptable (75%)	Needs Improvement (50%)
Submission follows conventions for standard written English and meets requirements. (7%)	punctuation, spelling, and capitalization; all length and formatting requirements are met.	punctuation, spelling, and capitalization that do not impede readability; length and formatting requirements are nearly met.	punctuation, spelling, and capitalization that somewhat impede readability; length and formatting requirements are nearly met.	punctuation, spelling and capitalization that significantly impede readability; length and formatting requirements are not met.

