

Museum Paper Guidelines, due 4/23

This paper is to be based on a real (not virtual) visit to an art museum. It should be a minimum of 4 full pages of text, excluding title page, reproductions, bibliography, etc., and should be double-spaced, 12 point in a standard font, with standard margins.

Choose one artwork to focus on, and describe it in detail, using the list of Questions to Ask About a Work of Art from class as a resource. While you may consult any sources you like to get information, such as the museum's website, books, or internet sources, base your description on your direct observation in the museum.

Additionally, briefly describe your overall impressions of visiting the museum. Did anything surprise you about the experience?

If you use any sources, acknowledge with a list at the end of the paper, and make it clear within the body of the text which ideas are not your own. Direct quotes need to be placed in quotation marks and have an attribution. Paraphrases of original ideas need to be acknowledged as well. If you write a sentence such as : The artist Irving Hamster created this painting in 1937., you don't need to place it in quotes or attribute it except to list the source of the information at the end of the paper. If, however, you write: Irving Hamster's work exemplifies some of the most important aspects of 1930's Neo-Utilitarianism, possibly placing him in the front ranks of that movement along with better-known practitioners such as Shirley Woodchuck and Miles Wombat., then, since you are describing subjective ideas that are presumably not original to you, you must make an attribution within the body of the text as well as in the list of sources. You may introduce someone else's ideas by using a format such as, "As Pauker wrote in "Lives of the Neo-Utilitarianists of Southern New Jersey..."

Use your own language rather than trying to force your paper into "Artspeak".

You will need to go to a museum from the list we make in class, or else get permission from your instructor to go to a different museum.