

# Instructions: Final Exam Essay

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Your final exam is an illustrated essay that provides an opportunity to engage in more in-depth research and understanding about ONE work of art of your choice selected from among the many addressed throughout the course. Your topic selection must reflect the content of the course. In other words, the work of art must be from a period or a civilization we studied.

**Warning:** Students are responsible for knowing the content of the course (LESSONS) and understanding what is NOT included in the content of the course. Essays that attempt to incorporate works of art that are not Western (i.e. Asian or African) or works that are NOT of the period under study in the course (example: Renaissance Art) will receive no points. Students who breach this rule will receive 0 points for the Final Exam assignment, and no permission to re-submit a corrected version of their final exam essay. Students who are unsure if their topic complies with the requirements of this assignment should consider contacting the professor for topic approval BEFORE they begin research.

**ASSESSMENT** The better and best essays will include thoughtful reflections on and even some references to (through comparisons or analogy) information learned in the course (Khan Academy essays and podcasts; videos, etc.) as well as several sources you might find online. The best essays incorporate information from scholarly sources (books, or articles found on Google Scholar, or JSTOR). Average and poorer essays will ignore the information learned in the course and glean data from one online source, such as Wikipedia. This is an illustrated essay. Better and best essays utilize images keyed directly to important points of discussion in the essay. Average and poorer essays will use irrelevant images or images as decoration or entertainment instead of images that enhance instruction for the reader.

## FORMAT

**TOP LEFT CORNER:** Title of the work of art, Date, Location, Place of Manufacture, Material, Technique; **TOP RIGHT CORNER:** Society or Civilization that made it; **LEAD PHOTO:** your essay leads with a good (useful-not decorative) embedded photograph (s) of the work of art ; **RESOURCES:** listed at the end (no endnotes or footnotes). Use the Style sheet that you prefer. **WORD COUNT:** approximately 1000 words, **SINGLE SPACED, LEARNING LEVEL:** good formal English, good grammar and good sentence construction, no typos or misspelled words, no “spell check” or “conversion/translation” errors. In other words, acceptable writing that is expected at the level of a Sophomore at MSU.

## COMPONENT GUIDELINES for your ESSAY

1. **PARAGRAPH ONE:** Description of the work of art. This paragraph is a simple visual description of the work of art reduced to components. This is the “tour guide’s” view of the work of art. It does not provide analytical information (that is included in another paragraph). You will embed a picture (s) of the work of art that shows key points of your description. Recommendation: this paragraph is short, no longer than 5 sentences.
2. **PARAGRAPH TWO:** Who, Where and When. 2 points. This is the art historical or archaeological information about the work of art. This paragraph is your analysis and placement of the work of art. Here you will provide comparisons for the work of art that help you explain to your reader why this work is attributed to a specific period, location, and society. You might include discussion of comparable works of art, or comments about your work of art’s proximity to cities, societal landmarks, or other works of art created in the area that represent the period of its manufacture. You will embed images of your comparisons. This paragraph is the longest of your essay.
3. **PARAGRAPH THREE:** The Creative Process: How the work of art was made: 1 point. This paragraph provides a detailed explanation of the materials, techniques and even engineering of the work of art. It allows you to address the creative process and to comment about how more unusual materials might have been acquired, engineering peculiarities or achievements, and specific techniques highlighted in the work of art. You might embed details of the LEAD image that showcase key points in your discussion. Recommendation: this paragraph is short, no longer than 5 sentences.

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4. PARAGRAPH FOUR: Function: Why was this work of art made? 2 points. In this paragraph you will explain to your reader the meaning and/or function of the work of art. Or perhaps this is unknown. Is it connected to a religious ritual, person or event? Funerary ritual? Does it reflect the influence of demands of a patron? It is a commemoration of a person (s) or event in history? Recommendation: this paragraph is the second longest one in essay.
5. PARAGRAPH FIVE: Why this work of art is important 1 point. This paragraph explains to the reader in a meaningful way why YOU believe this work of art is important to the history of art or archaeology or anthropology or history.
6. END OF THE ESSAY LIST OF RESOURCES: 1 point. List at least 3 sources you used. Web sites are allowed. DO NOT USE a textbook OR the Khan Academy site for a source . If you don't know if your selection is a textbook, ask the professor (at least 48 hours BEFORE the submission deadline so she has a chance to help you).
7. IMAGE USE: Identify the source of each embedded image underneath the display. All images must be meaningfully keyed to specific points of your discussion not added as decoration or you will receive a 1 point penalty for your essay.

### **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

1. CONVERT YOUR ESSAY TO A PDF FILE. Convert to PDF. Check the converted file to make sure that all your images are still there and in the right place. If you do not know how to convert your work to a PDF file you are required to contact MSU technology who will explain how.
2. SUBMIT YOUR ESSAYS TO THE DROPBOX ON THE CLASS D2L SITE. Upload the PDF file by the deadline posted for the items on the first page of the syllabus. Emailed submissions will not be graded and will receive zero points.