



Liberal Studies Program

Signature Assignment for LST 404

Art Critique Essay

Student Learning Outcome(s) Assessed:

SLO #5: Demonstrate proficiency in visual and performing arts subject matter.

Description of the Signature Assignment:

For this assignment, you will attend an art even chosen from: a music concert, dance performance, or a theatre performance. You will write a four to six-page critique of the work, including all factual information about the performance, such as title, discipline, artist(s), and where you saw it. The purpose of this assignment is for you to expand your arts experience by choosing something that provides you with new experience, and is a good fit for the assignment guidelines.

Directions for Students:

Attach some evidence (ticket, program) of your attendance to the worksheet and turn it in with you assignment. You may not choose an event that you have seen before in this class. Check with me if you have questions about whether an event will work for this assignment. Sources for information about possible events:

- Local newspapers
- Long Beach area: check arts calendars on Limelight site: <http://www.limelightlb.com>
- Discount tickets for some LA theatre productions at: <http://www.lastagealliance.com/>
- And Goldstar: [http://www. Goldstar.com/events/browse/90013](http://www.Goldstar.com/events/browse/90013)

Choice of event is very important to this assignment Please select an arts event that give you plenty of material to analyze as you write your critique, i.e. don't write about the band that happened to be playing as you were talking with friends in a bar! You will see in the rubric that I am looking for you to expand your arts experience by choosing something that provides you with new experience, and is a good fit for the assignment guidelines.

Please review the performance both formally and contextually. If the show is a revival, consider the original time it was written and why it has been revived now. Refer to the assignment rubric to understand what I am looking for and how I will grade your paper. Please write in complete sentences; a list of the information is not enough.

It is not enough to just read about art in a textbook. You need to experience it firsthand; a good critique will be based on your intellectual questioning of the work (critical thinking), as well as your emotional response to it. If you can find a published review of the performance, you may refer to that author's response to the work on your own review, as long as you cite the source. You may agree or disagree with the review. Sometimes, hearing another person's assessment helps to clarify your own response to a performance.

Use the attached worksheet to capture your impressions during, or soon after you see the show. Attach the completed worksheet to your final paper. Do not type your worksheet, I want to see the notes you took. The goal for this assignment is to develop your ability to critically assess and interpret artwork, using concepts and vocabulary from the class and text.

Standard paper format, as follows:

Name
Class
Instructor
Date

Title

Arts Event Critique: Worksheet – Do not type worksheet, it is only intended as a way to help you remember what you experienced.

(To be turned in with Assignment. Also, attach evidence of attendance to this worksheet.)

Title:

Date:

Who made or performed the work:

Location: where did you see the work?

What is the subject or story of this work? Theme(s)? What values can you identify that are expressed in the work?

How did the artist(s) choose to express their ideas? What style or form did they choose, and how did you recognize it? What were the clues?

What was the artist's purpose in creating this work?

Was the work symbolic? If so, how did the artist use symbols?

How did the formal elements affect your response to the work?

Who was in the audience, and how did they respond to the work?

Discuss what values were presented in the work and in what way those values reflect the values of the time/society in which the work was made. If this is an older work, consider how it reflects the values of the time and place in which it was originally created, as well as today's values.

In what ways did the work make you think and make you feel? Did your personal values affect the way you responded to the work?

Did this work change your thinking about art as something beyond entertainment? If so, how?

Scoring Rubric:

	4	3	2	1	0	Weight	Score
Choice of Event	Excellent match of event to assignment. Strong evidence of new experience for student	Good choice of event. Some evidence of critical thought in selection process	Adequate choice of event. Little evidence of critical thought in selecting the event	Inadequate choice of event for assignment requirements.	No evidence of thought or planning in choice of event.	x 1	/4
Description of Artwork or Performance	Description is complete, of appropriate length, and uses appropriate terminology	Description is fairly complete, of appropriate length, and uses appropriate terminology	Description is somewhat incomplete, length is fairly appropriate, some terminology is used.	Description is very incomplete, length is not appropriate, no terminology is used.	Description missing	x 2	/8
Formal Analysis Employs elements and principles	Analysis is very complete and uses appropriate elements and principles	Analysis is fairly complete and uses some appropriate elements and principles	Analysis is incomplete and uses few or inappropriate elements and principles	Analysis is very incomplete	Analysis missing	x 3	/12
Interpretation Considers stated and unstated values and themes; also contextual information	Interpretation demonstrates considerable reflection on the meaning of the work and draws conclusions from sophisticated use of evidence tied to the experience of the work	Interpretation demonstrates some reflection on the meaning of the work and draws some conclusions between evidence and experience of the work	Interpretation shows only minimal reflection on the meaning of the work and a minimal effort to tie use of evidence to experience of the work	Interpretation is primarily descriptive; and shows only cursory reflection on the meaning of the work and inadequate use of evidence tied to the experience of the work	Interpretation is missing; fails to reflect on the meaning of the work. No use of evidence to support the experience or understanding of the work	x 3	/12
Presentation	Presentation style instructions are followed. Punctuation, grammar, spelling, and mechanics are excellent.	Presentation style instructions are followed. Punctuation, grammar, spelling, and mechanics are acceptable.	Presentation style instructions are somewhat followed. Punctuation, grammar, spelling, and mechanics are somewhat acceptable.	Presentation style instructions are not followed closely. Punctuation, grammar, spelling, and mechanics barely acceptable.	Presentation style instructions are not followed. Punctuation, grammar, spelling, and mechanics are unacceptable.	x 1	/4
						Total score	/40

Legend

Total Points	College of Education Assessment Scale Equivalent
36-40	4 (Exceeds Expectations)
32-35	3 (Meets Expectations)
28-31	2 (Meets Some Expectations)
24-27	1 (Does Not Meet Expectations)
<24	0 (Can't Score)