

Art Exploration Project

Tentative due date: Monday, April 23

Prompts

OPTION #1: Find something you consider to be a work of art. It is completely up to you decide what that amounts to. There are only two constraints: (i) it needs to be something that requires leaving your home and (ii) it must be something that you've experienced this spring semester.

In other words, the following **don't** count: your favorite movie on Blu-ray/DVD; something you watched on Netflix; a painting on your wall; something from your bookshelf; anything you experienced prior to this semester; and so on.

Some **acceptable** options include: a film screening; a live theatrical, musical, or dance performance; something you encountered in a museum; a work of public art or architecture; a book you recently purchased from a bookstore; and so on. If you aren't sure whether an option is acceptable, then please ask first.

Next, write a **700–1,000 word piece** (roughly 1.5–2 single-spaced pages) that engages each of the following questions (not necessarily in this order):

1. Which piece did you choose, and in what context did you experience it?
2. Why do you consider your chosen piece to be a work of art?
3. What is the best objection to the claim that your chosen piece is a work of art, and why is that objection mistaken?

When addressing these questions, you should assume that your audience knows nothing about your chosen piece and describe it in detail.

OPTION #2: Same as above, except instead of addressing the above three questions, address the following:

1. Which piece did you choose, and in what context did you experience it?
2. How is that piece related to a reading or topic we discussed in class?

You should also raise and respond to an objection that pertains to your chosen reading/topic and/or the relevance of your piece to that reading/topic. To pick this option, you will need **special permission** from your TA or instructor.

ALTERNATIVE MEDIA: Also with **special permission** from the instructor, you may address one of the above two options through alternative media instead of prose. For example, you might make a short documentary or podcast. This should **not** be a substitute for rigorously engaging the assignment, but rather a different way of doing so.

Grading Information/Submission Instructions

You should treat this as an extended reading response assignment and hold yourself to the standard of the reading response rubric. However, you can also use the following breakdown as a rough guide to getting the full 10 points:

1 point: provides a concise introduction to the topic and reaches a clear resolution by the end.

2 points: documents and describes the piece (and the experience of it) in sufficient detail.

2 points: shows a full grasp of the philosophical concepts and sufficiently supports its position.

2 points: charitably presents and responds to an objection.

3 points: meets the word-count and contains no grammatical, spelling, or style errors.

= 10 points

NOTE ON GROUP WORK: It is okay to seek out and experience the same piece with your fellow classmates, but your writing **must** be entirely your own. Co-authorship is **not** permitted. See p. 4 of the syllabus for more information on academic dishonesty.

SUBMITTING YOUR ASSIGNMENT: To submit your assignment, please do **both** of the following:

1. Attach it as a **PDF** (**not** .pages, .doc, etc.) through Canvas.
2. Copy and paste your response into a new post on the “Discussion” forum from the left-hand menu and put your name in the title of the post.