

Art Narrative Assignment Description

Proposal due by Sept. 16th

Rough draft Sept. 23rd for workshop

Essay due Tuesday, Sept. 28th

Purpose

We take in the world through our senses. This assignment will be an opportunity for you to explore expression and sensory detail in your writing. As exemplified by the Mark Doty and Terry Tempest Williams course readings, this assignment will be an ekphrastic essay inspired by a work of art of YOUR choice from the UNH Museum of Art. You will use the artwork as a prompt to explore your personal connection to the work, a subject of interest that it triggers for you (can include research), or any nonfiction narrative that it inspires. The artwork must be “seen” by the reader, described with enough sensory detail that the reader can connect to your words through the artwork, even though they are not seeing it.

Method

This is a chance for you to stretch your creative writing muscles and also view some great works of art! You will be visiting the museum on **Tuesday Sept. 14th**. The steps for this assignment are as follows:

1. You will visit the art gallery (and follow ALL gallery rules and etiquette). Walk around and find a work (ANY WORK) that inspires you, pulls at something, triggers memories or perhaps a response to current events, etc. Sit in front of your work and free-write—jot down notes (IN PENCIL). What are you feeling? What sensory details does the work inspire: what would your painting smell like, taste like? Pay close attention to detail such as color, brushstroke, sculptural curves. Once you have chosen a work of art you will send me an e-mail providing me with the location, title, and artist for your work as well as a brief description of what you might explore in your essay (due via e-mail by **Sept. 16th**).
2. You will then turn your notes/free-writing into a nonfiction essay that includes sensory details and thoughtful descriptions based on the work of art that inspired you. Feel free to visit your artwork of choice on more than one occasion. **Essays must include the title and artist’s name as well as adequate description of the work.**

Audience

Your instructor and your classmates. Someone you want to share your art gallery experience with, someone who has never seen the artwork you chose.

Length & Format

Minimum 5 + pages. Double-spaced, 12 pt. font, STAPLED, etc., etc. (see syllabus). This is your first assignment and your opportunity to explore something you are truly inspired by/feel connected to. Be creative in both subject and style! This assignment is worth **15%** of your final grade.