

Essay 2

Use a feminist approach to compare and contrast a work by a female and a male Baroque artist. Consider who the artist assumes the viewer of the work to be, and from whom's perspective the action or story unfolds. Who is the main subject, and what significance does their gender play in understanding the meaning of the work? What subjects exhibit power in the work, and how is that power understood (for example, logical, rebellious, odd, or conforming)? Do all subjects depicted in the work exhibit agency (power, freedom of choice, action)? Is there a gender division in the display of authority and/or action as depicted? Consider whether the work reinforces or critically evaluates gender stereotypes? Finally, discuss how the work was received, and whether the two works were equally valued in their time.

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Compare the three paintings of the Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci (1495 - 1498), Jacopo Tintoretto (1592 - 1594) and Veronese (1573). How are the paintings similar, and how do they differ? Discuss elements in each work that reflect the period and place in which they were made. Consider why each artist portrayed the narrative differently. What influenced the artist's choices, and what did the artist wish to convey about this shared subject?

- or -

Compare the sculptural depictions of David by Donatello (1430 - 1440), Michelangelo (1501 - 1504), and Bernini (1623 - 1624). How are the works similar, and how do they differ? Discuss elements in each work that reflect the period and place in which they were made. Describe the part of the story depicted in each work. How does each statue interact with viewers and the space it occupies? What influenced the artist's choices, and what did the artist wish to convey about this shared subject?