

AH 341

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contemporary Art : 1970 to Present

You earned \_\_\_\_\_ out of 25 possible points

Topic approved

Please meet with instructor to consider revised topic

### Research Paper Thesis Proposal

You are asked to spend a healthy portion of this semester developing a research project relevant to our course of study. Your paper should begin with a clearly stated purpose. Your purpose may be to investigate the career of a single artist, consider the development of a particular movement in contemporary art history, or to explore a specific art historical issue/theory. Whichever you chose, your thesis should establish a point of view from which you will visually describe and analyze a minimum of four relevant works of art (see Barnett Chapter 1). The analysis that you develop must make skilled use of the art historical methodologies as outlined in Barnett Chapter 12 and the Introduction to *Art Since 1900*. As well, your thesis should be well supported by a minimum of five CMS footnotes from five different, credible, scholarly sources.

Write a paragraph that proposes an artist, movement, issue, theory, or other area of exploration relevant to the study of contemporary art from 1970 to the present day for your research paper. Outline the questions you intend to explore and the debates you would like to investigate. If you are new to the subject of interest, evaluate what draws you to this topic and what you anticipate you will discover by exploring it further.

#### Attributes of a Strong Thesis Statement

**A strong thesis statement takes some sort of stand.**

Remember that your thesis needs to show your conclusions about a subject.

**A strong thesis statement justifies discussion.**

Your thesis should indicate the point of the discussion.

**A strong thesis statement expresses one main idea.**

Readers need to be able to see that your paper has one main point. If your thesis statement expresses more than one idea, then you might confuse your readers about the subject of your paper.

**A strong thesis statement is specific.**

A thesis statement should show exactly what your paper will be about, and will help you keep your paper to a manageable topic.