

Art 1

Name _____

Modern to Contemporary Art

Due Date _____

You earned _____ out of 25 possible points

Methodology Matrix 5

Using Feminism as a Method



Emily Dickinson's setting



Judy Chicago. **The Dinner Party**. 1974 -79.



Sojourner Truth's setting

A feminist analysis considers power as it relates to the gender of the artist, patron, viewer, and/ or subject of the artwork. When using a feminist critique, the viewer considers gender inequality in social and political contexts. This often involves identifying and describing the means by which the female subject or artists is subordinated or lacks authority. By critiquing the woman's inferior position, the viewer utilizes feminist theory to understand the work assuming that gender equality is worth achieving.

According to Jones, why do modernist art critics seem to hate The Dinner Party? How does the work challenge modernist structures of judgment?

Explain Clement Greenberg's argument that art should remain "pure" and should avoid "kitsch." According to Jones, what gender bias is present in Greenberg's demand?

The Dinner Party has been viewed by record-breaking crowds and has been celebrated by the general public. Explain how this is proof to modernist art critics that the work is "low art," "kitsch" and unworthy of critical attention.

In 1991 an admirer of The Dinner Party proposed buying the work and donating it to a federally supported college in Washington D.C. Congress debated the donation and ultimately decided against the gift. What were the arguments against the work? What do these arguments reveal about the continuing power of ideas that prevent women's professional participation in the arts?

Define "essentialism." What aspects of The Dinner Party are interpreted as essentialist? What are some of the problems with an essentialist point of view? Consider Donna Haraway's point that "there is nothing about being female that naturally binds women" in relation to this question.

What were some of the criticisms of The Dinner Party by non-white and gay women and artists? What could have Chicago done differently to resolve these problems?

Identify a paragraph in the essay where Jones uses a feminist method to better understand the work and write the first few lines here:
