

Art 1 Honors

Modern to Contemporary Art

Name _____

Due Date _____

You earned _____ out of 10 possible points

Reading Response #5
According to What

Describe America in the late 1950s and early 1960s. What were some of the prevailing concerns of the era? What kinds of things did the typical American strive for? How were these concerns and interests conveyed to the public? In what direction did Beat artists take the existential crisis of the New York School? What did the new artists of the late 50s stress in their works instead of an existential crisis?

Explain Greenberg's concepts of the mainstream and kitsch. How did Beat Generation artists like Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns work to undermine these ideas? What strategies did Neo Dada and Pop artists utilize to further debate formalist theory?

Compare and contrast Jasper John's **Flag** with Robert Frank's **Fourth of July**. What thoughts do these works convey about America and its symbol, the flag? In other words, is the flag and what it represents being questioned here? Why or why not?

Jonathan Fineberg writes, "Jasper Johns formulated a pointedly non-introspective style that stressed the complex semiotics of the art object (in other words, how it means what it means)." Supporting this interpretation, Jasper Johns said of his work, "I didn't want my work to be an exposure of my feelings. Abstract Expressionism was so lively – personal identity and painting were more or less the same ... But I found I couldn't do anything that would be identical with my feelings. So I worked in such a way that I could say that it's not me." Do you feel that Johns's work is non-introspective and impersonal? Explain. Why do you think that Johns would have wanted his work to be perceived as impersonal?