

### Writing Your Research Paper



Barbara Kruger. **Your Gaze Hits the Side of My Face**. 1981 – 83.

You are required to write a Research Paper that adequately covers a topic relevant to the study of modern and/ or contemporary art made after WWII. The paper should reflect extensive research on three different artworks and should demonstrate a basic understanding and application of the descriptive techniques and art historical methodologies learned this semester. The average successful paper is about five pages in length, however, you are encouraged to write as many pages as are needed to fulfill the requirements of this assignment.

Whether you are investigating the career of a single artist, a particular movement in art history, or a specific art historical issue, you will need to analyze specific works of art to demonstrate the concerns of your topic. As well, you are encouraged to utilize articles in art journals such as **Art in America**, **Artforum**, **Frieze**, and **Woman's Art Journal** to support your arguments and interpretations.

### Requirements

Your paper should include:

- Detailed descriptions and discussions of **three relevant works of art**
- An in depth **analysis and interpretation** of the artworks utilizing at least **two art historical methodologies**
- Research that supports and informs your argument or analysis
- Consideration of the socio-political and cultural context of the works

Your research should reflect and include the following:

- **At least four credible sources of information originating on paper** (magazine articles, books, pamphlets) should be cited in MLA format within your paper. A proper citation includes an in-text notation and the full bibliographic information on a "Works Cited" page.
- **Proper and appropriate MLA citations** are vital. It is important that you give credit to any source of facts, information or ideas that you did not completely create on your own. Please consult your instructor's **Formatting a Research Paper** pamphlet for further information on documenting your sources.

### Recommended Steps

1. **Research** your topic
  - Search library catalogs for books
  - Search Chaffey's online databases for relevant magazine articles from Chaffey library's web page > click on "Agent" > provide student id# and birth date > "Databases A to Z" > Academic Search Premiere, Infotrac One File and "JStor" are highly recommended
  - Search the internet taking the credibility of the author and institution providing the information into account
  - Search your textbook :0)
2. Write an **outline**
  - Organize the information you would like to share, the points you would like to make, the artworks you plan on analyzing and any citations you plan on making
3. Write a **rough draft**
4. Have a trusted Learning Community member **proofread your rough draft**
  - Use the feedback provided by your partner to add, revise and clarify what you have written.
5. **Review** your second draft and make necessary corrections.
  - Use the research paper rubric to evaluate what you have written.

- Have you included all of the necessary information and required components?
- Are there parts that could be added to, condensed or clarified?
- Have you included in-text and full bibliographic entries on your Works Cited page for all of the necessary citations?

6. **Finalize** by printing your paper, saving a copy and reviewing it once more to ensure that all of the requirements have been met.

### Useful Definitions

Research = a systematic inquiry or investigation into a subject in order to discover or revise facts, theories, & applications

Analyze = to examine carefully and in detail so as to identify causes, key factors, possible results and essential elements

Critical evaluation = to appraise the value of; to judge or determine the significance, worth or quality of

Art historical methodology = a method of evaluating and understanding a work of art. Among the most common are formalism, iconography, Marxism, Feminism, semiotics, biography and psychoanalysis.

Credibility = A "credible" source is one that is written by someone who has studied the subject extensively and has some authority over the topic. Importantly, credible sources take great care to credit the sources of their information, inspiration and research!

Citation = to cite or quote a source of information or an author. You are to follow MLA citation guidelines which require an in-text citation following any information, idea or direct quote that was not your own idea or common knowledge AND full bibliographic information for that source on a "Works Cited" page. For more information, see the current edition of the Modern Language Association's Handbook for Writers of Research Papers or your instructor's MLA pamphlet.

Adequate discussion of topic			out of 25 points
Reflects extensive research		out of 13 points	
Uses two methodologies to analyze & interpret		out of 12 points	
Consideration of works of art			out of 25 points
Three artworks discussed in depth		out of 6 points	
Descriptions of artworks provided		out of 3 points	
Use of credible sources to support analysis		out of 16 points	
MLA format			out of 15 points
Margins, font, spacing, etc.		out of 5 points	
Works Cited Page		out of 10 points	
Citations			out of 20 points
Four sources originating on paper cited		out of 12 points	
Use of credible and relevant sources		out of 4 points	
Citations given when appropriate		out of 4 points	
Consideration of social, political and cultural context			out of 10 points
Style & clarity (a.k.a. spelling, grammar and ease of read)			out of 5 points
<b>Total</b>			out of 100 points