

Compendium of Knowledge 4

Using Formalism and Feminism as a Methodologies

Demonstrate your ability to understand women artist’s contributions to art using formalism and feminism as methods. Choose one work by a woman artist made in the 1950s, a work made in the 1960s, and a work made in the 1970s.

Each Compendium page needs to include the following:

- **Image** of the artwork with **Caption** that includes the work’s Title, Artist, and Date
- **Analysis** of the work using assigned methodologies guided by questions below
- **Cite** one credible source, originating on paper, in MLA style. **Works Cited** page included with set.
- At least one of the four pages you submit, should include the **citation of a Daily bRead reading**

A formalist approach considers formal and stylistic elements such as line, color, composition, materials, size, and shape to interpret meaning. To use a formal approach, it helps to brainstorm words and phrases that can be used to describe the work like, asymmetrical composition, gestural abstraction, bold mark making and vibrant color palette. Then, use those descriptions to explain associations and emotional responses you feel yourself making with the work. “The purest formal analysis is limited to what the viewer sees. Because it explains how the eye is led through a work, this kind of description provides a solid foundation for other types of analysis... All formal analysis identifies specific visual elements and discusses how they work together. If the goal of a writer is to explain how parts combine to create a whole, and what effect that whole has on the viewer, then this type of analysis is essential. (<http://writingaboutart.org/pages/formalanalysis.html>).

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.

On your first page, utilize a formal approach.

On your second page, utilize a feminist approach.

On the third page, utilize both a formalist and a feminist approach.

	Image & Caption	Analysis (Use of Methodology)	Understanding of Material	MLA citation	
Page 1	1 point	5 points	2 point	2 point	out of 10 points
Page 2	1 point	5 points	2 point	2 point	out of 10 points
Page 3	1 point	5 points	2 point	2 point	out of 10 points
Works Cited					out of 5 points
At least one Daily bRead citation					out of 5 points
Total					out of 40 points