

MUSEUM ASSIGNMENT

Visit Dallas Museum of Art
1717 North Harwood
Dallas, Texas 75201
214-922-1200

NOTE: (This assignment option is available for groups, pairs, and individuals who meet at the museum during designated times. Before going to the museum, you need to fill out the legal waivers for field trips. If you submit an assignment as groups or in pairs, you must list all participants' names-first and last-and explain what each member contributed to the finished product.)

FAQs about the museum:

Q: How much is admission?

A: Except for the featured exhibits, admission to the museum is free.

Q: How much does it cost to park?

A: Parking in the arts district is expensive, and if you park in the DMA's underground parking garage, it will cost you a flat \$10 fee unless you are a member, in which case, parking is free. If you are short on cash, keep in mind that you can take the DART Rail, which has a station nearby within easy walking distance. Depart the train at the St. Paul Street stop and walk north on St. Paul for two blocks to the museum. **AVOID WALKING THE STREET FROM THE STATION TO THE MUSEUM ALONE IF YOU ARE UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT WALKING DOWNTOWN ALONE.**

Q: When is the Dallas Museum of Art open?

A: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday: 11:00 AM-5:00 PM; Thursday: 11:00 AM.–9:00 PM; Late Night Fridays (third Friday of the month, excluding December) open 11 AM until midnight. Closed Mondays & major holidays (July 4, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day).

Q: Can I take photographs of the works and plaques?

A: You may **ONLY** take photos of the works owned by the museum (see plaque info), and you may **NEVER** use a flash when photographing artworks.

Q: Can I use my smart phone during my visit to the museum?

A: You can use your Wi-Fi-enabled phone or media player to access interactive content on selected works in the DMA collections. You can also borrow an iPod Touch from the Visitor Services Desk.

Q: How can I get more information on the elements and principles of art/design to help me discuss the art I select for the assignment?

A: If you need more training on *how to* look at art and *how to* apply the elements and principles of art/design, here are several websites that should help:

[wikipedia design/art elements & principles](http://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/building_lessons/elements.html)

http://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/building_lessons/elements.html

<http://www.mariaclaudiacortes.com/colors/Colors.html>

<https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/wash/www/Objects/lookset.htm>

ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIONS:

- Complete **all three parts**; be sure to read AND follow directions in each part.
- Assignment must be typed and submitted via turnitin.com via Blackboard. Since I have linked it through Blackboard, there is no need for a password or key to enter your work to turnitin.com's website.
- This assignment requires college level thinking and writing skills. This means that you are expected to use Standard English conventions and refine your work so that it reflects college level work and includes interesting insights as well as creative ideas.

PROOF OF ATTENDANCE: (Worth 50 points)

- You **MUST** provide proof of attendance by submitting a photograph of you taken *inside* the museum. If you do not submit proof of attendance, you will **NOT** earn a passing grade on this assignment. No exceptions!

PART I:

"Scavenger Hunt" (worth 10 points)

Complete individually, in pairs, or as a group.

Directions:

- Write a short paragraph reflecting on at least five of the ten prompts below.
- Give the title, medium, dimensions (if available), and date and/or origin (if available) of your 5 selections.
- Elaborate as prompted in the parentheses.
Find and explore a piece of art that
 - 1) you don't consider to be art at all (briefly explain why!)
 - 2) made you think of your childhood (what memory was sparked?)
 - 3) reminded you of someone or something (who or what did it remind you of?)
 - 4) made you smile (why?)
 - 5) grossed you out (in what way?)
 - 6) gave you a sense of excitement (why?)
 - 7) mirrors your own spirituality or lack of it (explain)
 - 8) you would like to own (why?)
 - 9) looks like a child painted it (what qualities does child art have that other art doesn't? (Picasso said that when he was 12 he could paint like the masters, but it took him his whole life to learn to see as a child. What do you think he meant?)
 - 10) is the most realistic or representational (How can you tell it isn't a photograph? Do you see brushstrokes?)

PART II: "Art Space" (Worth 15 points)
Complete individually, in pairs, or as a group.

Directions:

- IMAGINE that you and your group members have been selected to serve on a committee charged with procuring 5 works of art for the first space museum. There is only room for 5 works of art, so you must choose what you consider to be the best examples of 5 different cultures, religions, and/or time periods.
- For each art work you include, in your own words, write a paragraph explaining why you have selected that piece and provide detailed insight into how the artwork expresses the values, beliefs, and behaviors of that specific culture, religion, or time period.

PART III: "Exhibitionist" (Worth 25 points)

Directions:

- IMAGINE that your group has been hired to curate an art exhibit for a new museum and have convinced the DMA and 3 other world famous museums to loan you art.
 1. Visit one of the museum's featured exhibits and pay attention to how it has been put together.
 2. Then, as you explore the rest of the museum, decide on a theme for your art exhibit and write a 100 word paragraph explaining it to the public.
 3. Give your exhibit an enticing title that will pique viewer's curiosity and inform them of what to expect.
 4. Select **7 different works** of art from the DMA to express your theme, and search the internet for **3 more works** of art that you wish to borrow from world renowned museums.
 5. Explain how you will exhibit the works. Elaborate on what color(s) you will paint the walls, how you will hang the exhibit and arrange the space.
 6. You are free to design and create the space in any way you like.
 7. Let your imagination be your guide.
 8. Describe the interrelationship of the works to each other and how the juxtaposition of various pieces creates context and subtext.
 9. You may not select any two works of art that are housed in the same room at the DMA. For example, choose pieces from a variety of locations in the museum; for example, you might select a piece from each of these areas: Mesoamerican gallery, African gallery, Asian gallery, Contemporary Gallery, featured exhibit, and Wendy Reeves Collection.

BONUS (Worth 10 points)

Create a visitor's guide, brochure, or pamphlet promoting your exhibit (It can be handcrafted or created using the computer. See the brochures at the information desk for examples.)