

AP European History Summer Assignment

The connection between art and history is a close one as art often reflects the society that produces it. To better understand European history it will be important to have a basic understanding of art during the 15th to 20th centuries. The purpose of the summer assignment is to give you an introduction to the art of this time period.

Over the course of one visit- or many visits- to the National Gallery of Art *, you will be exposed to some of the great pieces of this time period. I have divided the assignment into three parts: 15th – 17th Centuries, 18th – early 20th Centuries and Post-World War I to the 21st Century. Your responses should be typed, double-spaced, and should be about 2-4 paragraphs in length for each part.

Dart I: 15th – 17th Century Art

- Find 5 examples of each of the following styles:
 - o Italian Renaissance
 - o Northern Renaissance
 - o Baroque
- These examples should be the paintings you like the most AND that fit the requirements.
 - o List the painting, artist and year
- Compare and Contrast
 - o As you look at the different styles of the paintings, what do they have in common?
 - How do they differ?
 - o Describe any regional differences you see
 - Do French and Italian Renaissance paintings look similar or different? Does the Baroque style also reflect regional differences? Explain.
- In general: how do these styles reflect their times?
 - o Need a review of this time period? These centuries saw the spread of Renaissance ideals (humanism, individualism, secularism). Also, this time period saw a revolution in Christianity in Western Europe with the spread of Protestantism and the Counter-Reformation.

Dart II: 18th – early 20th Century Art

- Find 3 examples of each of the following styles:
 - o Neoclassicism
 - o Romanticism
 - o Realism
 - o Impressionism
 - o Post-Impressionism
- Again, these examples should be the paintings you like the most AND that fit the requirements.
- List the painting, artist and year
- Compare and Contrast
 - o As you look at the different styles of the paintings, what do they have in common?
 - How do they differ?
- How do these styles reflect their times?
 - o Keep in mind the political, economic and social changes that are occurring during these dramatic centuries (i.e. French Revolution, Industrial Revolution, etc.)

Part III: Post-World War I – early 21st Century

Art at this time becomes difficult to categorize as you will see elements of all styles. So, for this section I will give you a range and a list of possible styles (you do not need to find an example of each style, this list is intended as a guide)

- Find 10 examples of art that was created from 1920 – 2008.
- List of possible styles:
 - o Postimpressionism/expressionism
 - o Cubism
 - o Surrealism
 - o Dadaism
 - o Postmodernism
 - o Counterculture (post WWII)
 - o Soviet realism (or something similar)
- List the title, year and the artist of each painting
- How does this painting reflect its time period? Can we see history's influence? Explain.
 - o Some questions to consider:
 - Can you see an influence of the two world wars?
 - Can you see a Freudian influence?
 - For art after WWII, do you see an influence of the commercialism of that time period?
 - From the 1960s on, do you see evidence of the Counterculture movement?

* For the most part, The National Gallery of Art includes all the styles contained in the assignment. However, if you feel so inclined, I have included a list of other art museums in the city that have collection devoted to modern art. You are not required to use the National Gallery- if you are traveling this summer to any major city and have the time to visit an art museum, please do!

Museum List:

The National Gallery of Art

- <http://www.nga.gov/home.htm>

The Hirshhorn Museum:

- <http://hirshhorn.si.edu/>

The Corcoran Gallery

- <http://www.corcoran.org/collection/index.htm>

The Phillips Collection

- <http://www.phillipscollection.org/collection/index.aspx>