

June, 2009
Hackensack High School
SUMMER PREPARATION
ADVANCED PLACEMENT ART HISTORY

At moments of great enthusiasm it seems to me that no one in the world has ever made something this beautiful and important. – Andrew Wyeth

June, 2009:

Dear Student:

Welcome to what is going to be an *awesome* year of AP Art History. You will need to prepare for the course with a summer assignment to focus your senses on art in a way that may be new to you. This is going to be an exciting and fulfilling course where you will be inquire often and think in an introspective manner as we look at a variety of pieces of artwork.

The purpose of this summer assignment is not to make the course daunting, but to prepare you in a way that will hone your approach as we observe art of many forms.

If you have any questions over the summer pertaining to your work, do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail: s.shaw@hackensackschools.org. I will reply promptly.

Enjoy your summer,

Ms. Stephanie Shaw
AP Art History
Attachments
Hackensack High School

AP ART HISTORY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT / Ms. Shaw

You are required to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art this summer. The purpose of this visit is to get you looking at lots and lots of art. Seeing art LIVE is always the best way to experience it. Project counts as three test grades.

PART 1

1. You must bring a camera with you on your visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The museum generally allows you to photograph work as long as you are not using a flash. If don't own a camera borrow one or buy a disposable camera and get a disc made. Email me if you have a problem finding a camera and we will work something out.
2. First visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art (www.metmuseum.org) website. Review museum policies, current exhibits and floor plan. The price is a *suggested* donation. You do NOT have to pay full price for your admission to the museum. I suggest from 5-10 dollars for your visit. Please keep your tag and attach it to your assignment.
3. When visiting the Met, plan to spend at least 2 hours exploring. Find art you like and really observe it. Visit all the floors. When viewing the artwork read the cards next to the work. It will give info such as the title, artist's name; date art was completed, etc.
4. Take at least 20 photos (or short videos) at the museum as "proof" of your visit. One photo must include yourself and least 7 photos must be works of art that interest you. The other 12 are free choice. Try to take more than 20 photos so you have more to choose from later.
5. Make sure you write down the information about each piece of art you are using in this project. You will need the title, artist's name, date it was completed, and what part of the museum it is located (Modern Wing, Medieval Hall, Sculpture Garden, etc.)
6. Have fun! This is a great opportunity to go to the city with your friends to look at some art, eat a tasty lunch, walk in Central Park, get some coffee, and feel sophisticated and worldly. Enjoy!!

PART 2

1. Create a brief but *interesting* story/narrative using the photos from your Met trip. Put images in PowerPoint, Moviemaker, Photostory or a similar program. Story should contain *text* and/or *sound*, a title page and at least 20 photos but no more than 25 slides. Your Met story is due first day of school and must be burned to a disc. Be prepared to present your story to the class on the first day of school.
2. You must also be prepared to discuss what works of art you liked the best (and why) and be ready to relate your art museum experience to me and the rest of the class.

PART 3

CHAPTER ONE NOTES

Please read Chapter One, entitled "The Art of Prehistory" (pages 28-50) in our text, *Art Across Time* (Laurie Schneider Adams). Do **not** be intimidated by our text's size.

How to Take Notes from *Art Across Time*:

First: read a section of your textbook chapter

- Read just enough to keep an understanding of the material.
Do not take notes, but rather focus on understanding the material.

It is tempting to take notes as you are reading the first time, but this is not an efficient technique: you are likely to take down too much information and simply copy without understanding

Second: Review the material

- Locate the main ideas, as well as important sub-points
- Set the book aside
- Paraphrase this information:
Putting the textbook information in your own words forces you to become actively involved with the material

Third: write the paraphrased ideas as your notes

- Do not copy information directly from the textbook
- Add only enough detail to understand

Review, and compare your notes with the text, and ask yourself if you truly understand

- Write down any specific questions/confusions you might have about what you read so you can ask about them in class. Please have page numbers ready so you can easily reference what you want to discuss/clarify.