

Unit 1 Project – Art Opinion Review

An integral element of this course is seeing your development as a researcher. Part of developing a research project is building on the work of others, a *sampled consciousness*, but it also means building on your work as it progresses. Academic writing is an involved process that includes other scholars' critiques of your research, one that can take over a year from initial drafts until publication in a journal. Research takes time. You need time to acquire research and work through it. Time to sort your thoughts and to figure out where your gaps in knowledge are and how you can fill it. The research project you develop in this course will be scaled and scaffolded to be accomplished in a fifteen-week undergraduate course. We will work on these projects step by step, week by week. Think of each unit project as a building block in the construction of a culminating research project, a snapshot into a specific stage of a larger research trajectory. Your research portfolio, submitted during finals week, is a narrative of your research and writing, one that will eventually reflect your entire movement through this course.

Our inquiry theme for this course is “writing and the arts” or more specifically, as we have explored thus far, an investigation into the rhetorical capacities of popular culture. For this first unit project you are required to review an artifact from popular culture. While it is easier to build from the work created in your writing activities from module 1 (i.e. the sonic narrative review, self-curated content review, or algorithmically curated content review), you are *not* required to work from these generative assignments if you would like to “start fresh.” In addition to films, music albums, and television shows, you can review live performance like a music concert or dance recital, a gallery exhibit or an open mic night. The important thing is for this artifact to be something you can commit to—something you are interested in conducting in-depth research about (discovering the sociohistorical context it is situated in, the artist's stated intentions, and the reception and uptakes of this work). For now, your task is to write a review based primarily on your own rhetorical analysis and opinion: to review this piece of art based solely on your background knowledge and analytical ability. In **750-1000 words** write a review that addresses the following:

- Chooses and briefly describes a piece of art. Includes (somewhere in the review) a basic description of the event including basic details such as date, time, location, etc.
- Includes an audience centered rhetorical analysis and close read of the artifact. Review provides specific evidence for your analysis that demonstrates an attentiveness to an audience unfamiliar with the artifact (provides important details an audience would need to understand the analysis having not interacted/experienced the artifact for themselves –your review should not required the audience to experience the artifact, but your review would guide your audience's attention if they were to).
- Shares some your opinion. Your review should reference other work you are familiar with in your prior knowledge/experience (what comes to mind for you). Back up your claims with example and explanations.
- While this review is more conversational than formal in tone, you should show attentiveness to readability for your audience. Spelling and grammar are not weighted as heavily as this project requires more attention to organization and transitioning between ideas.