Spring 2012

Report on the Historical Context of Your Chosen Work of Art

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ASSIGNMENT: REPORT ON THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT OF YOUR CHOSEN WORK OF ART

At the beginning of the spring 2012 semester, you will be asked to choose one novel or film that you wish to study.

After selecting the work you will focus on, you must familiarize yourself with its historical, societal and cultural context. Following a session with Bea Caraway, the librarian responsible for this course, you will identify three appropriate general background resources and at least one reliable resource that discuss the work of art in its historical, cultural, or social context. These resources can either provided by Coates Library or found on your own. After you have found these sources, you will have a research appointment with Ms. Caraway to discuss your sources and have them approved for your project. Be prepared to describe why you chose these sources and what you believe their value will be for your analysis.

Scholars learn from and build on each other's efforts, and they give credit where it is due. Peer tutor Rebecca Carey will offer several examples of how to properly indicate in an oral report what one has learned from other scholars. As you prepare your own presentation, consider how you will give credit to your sources as you speak. You will make reference to at least three experts from your approved resources.

On the day of your presentation, you will also hand in an evaluative annotated bibliography of at least four sources (two secondary sources and two on the work of art itself).

Presentation Guidelines:

Length - 10 minutes.
Language – Clear and communicative.
Delivery – Do not read out your presentation. You may want to use note cards to prompt your memory.
PowerPoint – Use your PPT presentation to illustrate or complement your talk, not to duplicate it. You must post your PPT presentation on T-Learn.
Outline – Bring to class a one-page outline of your presentation, copies for all students.
 Citation style -- MLA.
Elements to include –
    Description of the work
        ● Medium of communication / genre
        ● Artist
        ● Period
        ● Country
        ● Style
        ● Relative standing
        ● Others

Description of the salient aspects of the period
- Political
- Societal
- Historical
- Cultural
  - Art
  - Music
  - Literature
  - Trends in architecture or fashion of that time and place
  - Others

Commentary on how the context influenced the work

Reminder: You are bound by the Honor Code, so you must not represent others' words or ideas as your own.

Annotated Bibliography Guidelines:

Number of entries: two background sources, two sources that discuss the work itself in relation to its context.
Annotation: For each resource, indicate
- how you know it was authoritative and reliable
- what value it had for your project
- how it relates or compares to other sources you considered using
Length of each annotation: As long as you need, but at least 10 lines each.

Consult "Creating an Annotated Bibliography" (http://lib.trinity.edu/lib2/cite.php) before you begin this part of the assignment.