

ARTS 1301 - Event Paper Guidelines

PURPOSE

There are three event papers required in ARTS 1301. These papers are designed to have you properly distinguish between the three (3) types of criticisms discussed in class and read in our text. These assignments will help students apply the correct terminology when referring to four specific artistic disciplines. The First Event Paper (four pages- 10 points) will focus on the visual arts, and for this paper, specifically a painting. A Theatrical work will be the topic for the Second Event Paper (four pages- 10 points). The Third Event Paper can either be a Classical Music Concert or a Dance Performance.

One standard for these performances or visual art work is based on its venue. You must attend the event either on the campus of a university, or at a professional venue, such as The Meyerson Concert Hall, The Dallas Museum of Art, the Wyle Theater, or the Eisemann Center. **For the purposes of these papers, your topic may not include photography, architecture, sculpture, video art, or film.** These papers should be based on information gathered while attending “Live” events. You are expected to write scholarly papers using three tenets of critical thinking—description, interpretation, and evaluation. This is not a creative writing exercise, so avoid composing a narrative based on the event you attended.

All event papers are due in-class on the assigned date. You must have a printed copy in class where your TA will collect your paper. **Papers sent via e-mail will not be accepted.** Make sure to allow for problems; a broken printer on the morning of the due date is not a valid excuse. Remember, you may not use the information from this paper for an assignment in another class without permission from both instructors. We will use “Turn-It-In” for all three papers—instructions to follow. All events must be attended during this semester. Last summer’s visit to the Art Institute of Chicago or a performance of the American Ballet Theater in New York may not be used for these assignments.

FORMAT: The Event Paper (3-4 pages, plus cover page- 10 points)

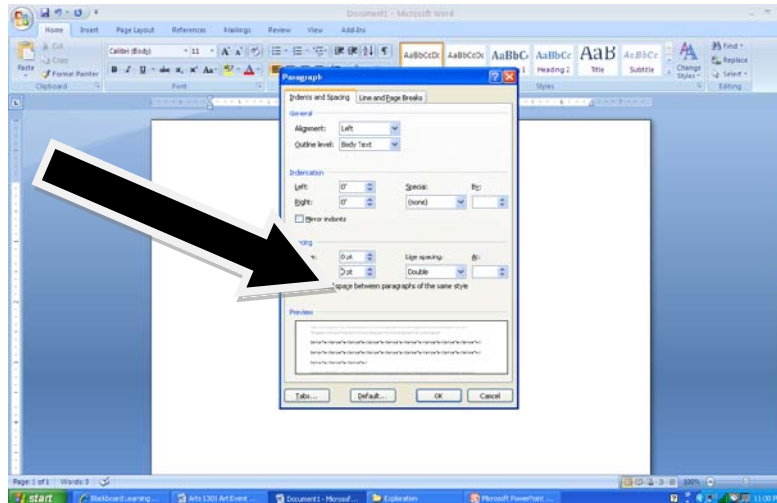
Part of the purpose of this class is to prepare students to properly format a scholarly paper. The following indications are to be applied to every event, extra credit, or group presentation paper. All papers should be written as one cohesive document, meaning there are no sub-divisions or titles within the content to explain what type of criticism you are applying.

Event Papers are **3-4 PAGES** long (not including the title page).

“Full page” signifies that the entire page is utilized. All pages need to be stapled together.

- Paper size: **11” x 8.5” (US letter)**
- Font: **Times New Roman**
- Size: **12 pt**
- Margins: **1” (all around)**
- Alignment: **left**
- Line Spacing: **double****

** if you use Microsoft Word 2007, make sure the “before” and “after” fields in the Spacing section (left to where you select “double” line spacing) both equal “0 pt” (as shown in graphic).



CONTENT

The Event Paper includes 7 specific items and should be presented in the following order:

1. Title Page
2. Introduction
3. Descriptive Criticism
4. Interpretative Criticism
5. Evaluative Criticism
6. Conclusion
7. Brochure/Ticket/Program

1) Title Page

This is the very first page of your event paper. It is to be single-spaced and centered in the middle of the page, and you need to include only the following information:

- Event Paper (# of event) – (type of event)
- ARTS 1301.(your section)
- (your name)
- (due date of paper)

An example:

Event Paper Two – THEATER
ARTS 1301.002
Joe Smith
March 1, 2009

No actual title (e.g. “A Night at the Theatre”) is necessary at any point during your paper.

2) Introduction

An introduction is a short paragraph, which includes only the vital information regarding the content of your paper:

- Name of the exhibition/performance attended
- What kind of event it was (dance, theater, art exhibition or music performance)
- Date and venue
- **Thesis Statement*** Make sure your thesis statement is in italics and/or underlined.*****

**** A thesis statement is the point you are trying to convey in your paper. In other words, you have to express whether the event was of value (or not) to you and why.**

Do not list every single performer, artist or artwork partaking of the show in the content of your paper. Only name the artist or piece of art that is relevant to your argument.

The following example contains all required information, plus includes a very brief description of the event (thesis statement is *italics*). Immediately following your introductory paragraph, you should start with your descriptive criticism:

On October 17, 2008 I attended a performance of “Mixed Bill: Physical Voices” at the UTD University Theatre. The show was a fusion of slam poetry and modern dance into a narrative of social and racial differences in search of a common unifier, which included inspired moments of interdisciplinary cohesion. Nevertheless, *the overall presentation was unable to sustain the well-intended theme of unity, particularly noticeable in the opening segment and the lack of proper transitions built into the final number.* (At this point, introduce the three elements used to support your argument [thesis]—see below, in description. Use adjectives to clarify.)

3) Descriptive Criticism

Here you should focus on the general elements of the show/exhibition/concert. Absolutely no judgment or interpretation should be applied at this time in the paper. Describe in detail what you saw in regards to the performance/artwork.

Three (3) elements from the specific discipline discussed in class or in the corresponding book chapter should be applied in your descriptive criticism. For example, three from the following:

For theater or dance – costumes, lighting, directing, music, diction, or set

For painting or sculpture – line, texture, subject matter, technique, color, or composition

For music – timber, rhythm, melody, orchestration, form, or harmony

The elements listed above are just an example. Just make sure whichever three (3) elements you discuss that they are clearly connected to your thesis statement and you are utilizing the correct terminology when referring to each discipline.

4) Interpretative Criticism

When you interpret a performance/artwork, you are trying to extract the meaning behind it. In other words, what is the artist trying to communicate? What is his/her purpose? Once again, no personal opinion should be applied in this section either. What do the elements you describe mean? Are there symbols, or sounds, that influence the work. What did this art work mean to you?

5) Evaluative Criticism

This is the section where you write your opinion and defend your thesis statement, utilizing the three (3) specific elements described and the interpretation of the show/artwork. Also-- was there an emotional aspect to your experience? How did the work make you feel?

Write a clear, respectful evaluation.

6) Conclusion

This is the final section of your paper. In the conclusion you restate your thesis statement and summarize the most important information of your argument. Unlike the evaluation, where you can state your opinion, the conclusion is a formal way to conclude / wrap the entire content of the paper.

7) Brochure/Ticket/Program

You must attach (staple to the back of your paper) the corresponding brochure (one page of the brochure), ticket and/or program (one page) of the event you attended. Aside from being proof of your attendance to the event, most programs and brochures include pertinent information regarding artists and their works.

You may include short citations in your work to document other people's work, ie (DSO Program Notes, Nov. 2014).

KEEP IN MIND

- Covering the minimum requirements does not always constitute a “10”
- Use standard written English (avoid slang and conversational terms)
- Always use first person references (“I”), not general as “we,” “one” or “the audience”
- This is an analytical, factual examination of an artistic event, not creative writing.
- Employ the concepts and vocabulary you have learned in class and from the book.
- Do not write about the people in the gallery, how tired you were, what your friends thought, etc. -- it is not relevant to the assignment. This is usually considered...
- **Filler:** this refers to content that is written in order to fill up the page to meet the 3-4 page requirement (plus cover page), but has nothing to do with the assignment – avoid this at all times
- **Check your spelling, grammar, and punctuation.**
- Papers will not be read or graded if they contain too many mistakes
- Please visit the Student Success Center if you require assistance in writing your paper.
The Student Success Center Writing Center
(<http://www.utdallas.edu/studentsuccess/writing/>) sees currently enrolled students. You may schedule up to two appointments per week in the Writing Center **MC1.302**. Call the office to schedule your appointment (972) 883-6707. Make sure to bring a copy of these guidelines to the Student Success Center.

GRADING RUBRIC

Format:	.25	Cover page
	.25	Font and type size
	.25	Margins and spacing
	.25	Minimum/maximum length requirements met
Content:		
		Introduction/Thesis Statement
	1.0	Clear thesis statement
		Descriptive Criticism
	1.0	Clear description of artwork with detail
	1.5	Three elements discussed (.5 for each), tied to thesis statement
	.5	Correct terminology used
		Interpretive Criticism
	1.5	Contains interpretation of possible meaning(s) of work of art, and should be tied to the thesis statement
	1.5	Contains interpretation of the artist’s purpose, also tied to thesis statement
		Evaluative Criticism
	1.5	Defense of thesis statement using support of three elements described and interpretive conclusions- was the artist successful?
		Conclusion
	.5	Restatement of thesis with clear summary of your argument