# **HUM 100 Project 1 Artifact Chart**

Although you will work on various assignments throughout the course to support you in completing this assignment, this project is not due until Week 6.

**Artifact**

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| What is your chosen **artifact**? Include a link to or a picture of the artifact.        *The Poetic Edda* is a book written and translated by Jackson Crawford. The book covers stories and lessons about the Norse gods which Crawford translated from Old Norse. Throughout the book he shares his thoughts and deeper interpretations on what the stories and meanings were as well as covering some parts that were a little more difficult to translate. | 1. **Describe the artifact** in detail. For instance, how would you describe it to someone who could not see it?   The medium in which you experience *The Poetic Edda* is important. Although these days we do have access to audiobooks I really feel that reading it yourself is crucial to the experience. The stories can be a lot to take in since they were translated over from a language that has been dead for many years. I personally feel that Jackson’s snippets about the stories and their meanings a very helpful in understanding deeper meanings to them as well. |
| 1. Choose **elements of the artifact** that you believe are most important to how you experience it and explain why. For instance, what particularly catches your senses or makes you want to keep experiencing it? Does the choice of medium impact your experience?     The medium in which you experience *The Poetic Edda* is important. Although these days we do have access to audiobooks I really feel that reading it yourself is crucial to the experience. The stories can be a lot to take in since they were translated over from a language that has been dead for many years. I personally feel that Jackson’s snippets about the stories and their meanings a very helpful in understanding deeper meanings to them as well. I do not believe that there is any difference between hard cover, soft cover, or eBook versions and it is all down to preference. | |

**Assumptions about your artifact**

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| 1. State your opinion on what you believe is the **purpose** **of this artifact** and the success of the creator in achieving the purpose. For instance, what message do you believe the creator is trying to express, and is that message successfully expressed?       I personally believe that Jackson Crawford decided to translate and write his version of *The Poetic Edda* as a way to preserve the history and culture of the Norsemen. While I have not read other versions myself, it does seem that he felt others may have not had the clearest translations and he wanted to build on that. Not only does his version feel very easy to read but he also leaves many notes on what the meanings of each story are and covers parts that did not translate as well given the lack of knowledge we have of Old Norse. |
| 1. Discuss how the artifact **reflects the culture** (or context) in which it exists. Be sure to address what aspects of culture have relevance for this artifact: politics, history, religion, social perceptions, technology, media, education, and so on. In other words, how do the artifact and its culture interrelate? For instance, how would a particular form of body modification reflect the urban culture in which you encountered it?         History, religion, and education are all very important aspects when looking at this artifact. *The Poetic Edda* gives us a look into the beliefs of the Norsemen and laid the foundation for the Norse religion to continue to exist in modern culture.  It is also an interesting look at history since these are stories that were shared thousands of years ago, and these historical stories can give us an idea of the culture at the time. There are several stories that look at the cultural beliefs and morals at the time.  This is also educational because without this book so much of the culture would have been lost as well as the Norse religion. So little was documented back then by the Norsemen, so this book is a way to educate and preserve what knowledge we have of them. |
| 1. Use the artifact to discuss how acts of creative expression **impact** and are impacted by the people and situations that surround it. How might the artifact and the person who created it have impacted each other? For instance, how might the geographic location where the artifact was made, the materials used to create the artifact, the medium of the creative process, or the environment where the artifact is displayed influence the creator’s life or future creative work? How might the artifact and the culture or context in which it was created have impacted each other? For instance, does the artifact add to the understanding of the culture from which it was created? What contributions does it make to continuing a dialogue about that culture and the importance of its artifacts?       I think that Jackson Crawford’s *The Poetic Edda* had a very large impact on the Norse culture. His book as well as his videos have made him a very well-respected person in the Norse pagan community. I would say that his deep knowledge and thorough research have helped preserve the old Norse beliefs which has also grown the Norse pagan community and culture. This is due to how easily digestible his writing is and his well thought out notes that give a deeper understanding about the stories within the book. |

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| 1. **Questions: Pose questions** you have after thinking deeply about this artifact. What more do you want to know regarding: |
| 1. The relationship between human **culture and expression**   Question 1: What specific parts of the Norse culture helped him give a better translation than others in the past?    Question 2: Why did he decide to do this for *The Poetic Edda* and not *The Prose Edda*? Did he feel the latter lacked cultural significance? |
| 1. Your **personal assumptions** about artifacts of this sort and why they exist.   Question 1: What significance did *The Poetic Edda* have for Jackson Crawford that made him take on this project?    Question 2: Was this done as a passion project due to his belief in the Norse gods or does he not follow that religion? |
| C. How **your** **values** have shaped and are shaped by your expression and that of others  Question 1: Was his intention to save the Norse religion by writing this book?    Question 2: What did lessons did he hope readers to take away from his notes and additions to this book? |
| 1. The relationship between the possible **intent** of the creator and your own **interpretation** of its meaning   Question 1: What did Jackson Crawford want to achieve with his book that he felt others did not do well enough?    Question 2: What specific parts of the Norse culture helped him give a better translation than others in the past? |

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| 1. Speculate on how you would go about **answering** **these questions**. For instance, what sorts of things would you study about these kinds of artifacts and their contexts that might begin addressing these questions?   I tend to skip over introductions in books and so I feel that looking at that may give me a few answers. Many authors like to share their reasoning for their book or something personal about themselves within their books and so this could be a good spot to check.  I think that it would also help to look more into Jackson Crawford to get information on things like his views on *The Prose Edda* and why he did not write that and his views on its cultural significance or insignificance.  Another helpful thing would be to look at other authors who have done this book and were praised but not as respected as him and see why his *The Poetic Edda* has been so important for not just preserving the Old Norse belief system, culture, and history but also being crucial for modern-day paganism. |