

**COMP3900/6390 Assignment 1 Specifications 2016**  
**Individual assignment. Marked out of 60, worth 15%**

**Preliminary activity:**

Visit a cultural institution, find an exhibit that interests you and observe what visitors to that institution do when they look at or interact with your chosen exhibit. [Don't disturb them or talk to them, just watch what they do]. Pick a time when there are plenty of people to observe. Write field notes to record your observations.

Suggested institutions include the National Museum of Australia, National Gallery of Australia, National Library, Australian War Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra Museum and Art Gallery as well as the many smaller galleries and display spaces such as the Drill Hall Gallery, the ANU School of Art, the M16 Artspace. The exhibit that you choose could be a work of art, an historical object, an object of current cultural or political significance, an object that represents design concepts and so on.

Your chosen exhibit might be a single item. Examples could be the "G for George" Lancaster Bomber at the War Memorial, or the "Blue Poles" painting by Jackson Pollock at the National Gallery.

Your chosen exhibit might be a collection of items presented together. Examples could be a group of paintings by the same artist, or a group of objects that illustrate a design concept (such as the Kimono exhibit that was presented last year in the National Gallery of Australia).

If you are unsure about the exhibit that you have chosen then email or talk to the lecturer about it.

**Assignment submission:**

1. Describe the exhibit that you have chosen.
  - 1.1 What is it? [Include a sketch or photo]
  - 1.2 Where is it?
  - 1.3 How is it presented to the institution's visitors?
  - 1.4 How is it related to the other parts of the cultural institution?
  - 1.5 What attracted you to it? [5 x 1 mark]
2. Describe how you interacted with the exhibit.
  - 2.1 How did you look at it or study it? [2 marks]
  - 2.2 How did you move in the physical space around the exhibit? [1 mark]
  - 2.3 What questions were in your mind about the exhibit? [2 marks]
3. Describe the way the visitors (that you observed) viewed or interacted with the exhibit.
  - 3.1 What were the different types of visitors? [3 marks]
  - 3.2 What did each type of visitor do? [3 marks]

Include examples from your field notes to illustrate your description. [4 marks]

4. Do some on-line research to find out how curators have presented exhibits like this one on-line.
  - 4.1 What does the institution where you found it show about this exhibit in its website? [1 mark]
  - 4.2 and 4.3 Find two other cultural institutions that have a similar exhibit and describe how each of them presents their exhibit on its website. Remember to cite the institutions' websites. You can include a screenshot from those websites. [2+2 marks]
  
5. In this part of the assignment you describe an idea for an interactive on-line representation of your chosen exhibit. Remember that this is the first step in a sequence of iterations over the idea so you are not describing details of its implementation. Show how your idea relates to your own experience of the exhibit, to your observations of the way the visitors to the institution interact with the exhibit and to your research into the on-line representation of similar exhibits. You can include sketches, floor plans, diagrams and images if you like.
  - 5.1 Write a summary of your idea [5 marks]
  - 5.2 Explain who would be your target audience for this idea [5 marks]
  - 5.2 Describe three important features of your idea, showing how each feature relates to your observations and/or your research and/or your own experience of the exhibit. [3 x 5 marks]
  
6. Find a friend who will discuss your idea with you. Show them your answer to Part 5 (above) and ask them to comment on it.
  - 6.1 What skills does your friend have to comment on your work? [1 mark]
  - 6.2 What questions did you ask your friend? [2 marks]
  - 6.3 What were your friend's comments? [2 marks]
  
7. Describe how you would change, improve or keep your idea as a result of discussing it with your friend. [5 points x 1 mark each]

### **Number of pages in your submission using the assignment template (Word document)**

The assignment template that is provided is a simple Word document that uses 12 point Times New Roman font and 2.54cm (i.e. 1 inch) margins top, bottom, left and right. With this page setup:

- A 5-mark answer should take about half a page of typing
- A 10-mark answer should take about a page of typing
- A 15 mark answer should take about one and a half pages of typing

This is a guide, not a fixed limit. You can use extra page space for photos or diagrams and you can write more for a particular part of the assignment if you need the extra space to write what you want to say. You do not have to use the assignment template but your assignment submission should be similar in size, font and layout. If you do not use the template then put your name and your UID on the first page and page numbers at the bottom of the page. Number the parts of your submission to match the numbering of the specifications.