Understanding Place or Artifact: Campus Spaces and Art

# **English 150, Spring 2019**

(600-700 words)

## **Overview**

In Assignment #3, you profiled a campus program or organization and its purpose at ISU. In this assignment, you will be analyzing a physical part of campus you may have seen but do not know much about. This assignment asks you to deepen your understanding of the history, importance, and appropriateness of a building or piece of art on the ISU campus.

Your purpose is to find out all that you can about one facet of this new place of which you are now an inhabitant (one building, one work of art) and to analyze how and why the campus designers, architects, landscape architects, or artists chose to plan and create that particular feature as they did. This kind of project is called “place-based” writing, and this assignment allows you to go beyond fact-based description to some commentary (interpretation) as well. This assignment’s purpose is to explore and explain how your chosen campus building or campus artifact was created and placed.

Correctly identify and quote or paraphrase outside material that you use in your essay. For instance, if you use information from the ISU Museums website, indicate the source of the information within your sentence and in a parenthetical citation at the end of the sentence. You also need to acknowledge the source of any images you use. You will need to have an accurate Works Cited page in MLA formatting.

## **Getting Started**

To choose a focus for this place-based analysis, first decide which campus space you would like to write about. You may choose any public piece of art on campus OR one of these spaces:

* Beardshear Hall
* Catt Hall
* Curtiss Hall
* Parks Library
* The Hub
* Morrill Hall
* Troxel Hall
* Molecular Biology Bldg.
* Margaret Sloss Women’s Center
* Multicultural Student Center
* LGBT+ Student Center
* Another idea\*

Keep these basics in mind about effective analytical and interpretive writing:

* it describes a subject and its parts in sufficient detail that the later analysis makes sense
* it examines how the parts of the subject interact with each other
* it uses a logical and easy-to-follow organization
* it offers an interesting insight on the topic
* the conclusion summarizes the whole
* it draws on material in several different sources available to you (see the list of online resources on Canvas).

### **ePortfolio Connection:**

Add this assignment as a PDF to your “Written” page. You may choose to add a different document to this page later, but add this assignment for now. Eventually, you should add another assignment as well to see how multiple documents appear on a page.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

At a minimum, your paper needs to satisfy the general criteria below. However, the grade is based not just on whether a feature is present or not, but on how well it has been integrated into your paper.

### **Context**

* The lead paragraph introduces the audience to the place or feature (e.g., building, artwork).
* There is a controlling idea that reveals the interesting focus of your analysis and commentary.

### **Substance**

* The paper shows relevant insights about this part of the ISU landscape and is not simply a collection of descriptive facts about the place.
* The paper contains carefully chosen, specific information about the place, its history, its campus context and is developed with sufficient detail.

### **Organization**

* The paper is organized clearly around the key points made about the place or feature, its history, and its campus context. Specifically, you introduce your thesis about the place or feature in the first paragraph and don’t just present a name and location.
* The paper is appropriately organized into paragraphs and uses transitions to link one idea to the next.

### **Style**

* If the paper includes either direct quotations or paraphrases from the ISU websites or other sources, you provide in-text citation and accurate Works Cited
* Problems with grammar and mechanics do not detract from the paper

### **Delivery**

* Page layout makes the paper easy to read
* The paper adheres to MLA convention