

The purpose of this assignment is to experience how space is shaped for a purpose. The two purposes we will look at are (1) the commemoration of an event and (2) the creation of a profound or religious feeling. It will require you first to research the place you plan to visit and then to visit the place. You will be expected to take your time at the place, sketching the plan of the place and features of interest, as well as taking pictures. You are encouraged to bring a family member or friend (not in the class) and to include that person's reactions in addition to your own. I want you to put some effort into experiencing the place, to share that effort with someone, possibly by teaching them what you know, and to seriously contemplate what the designers of the place were trying to do to you and others. In writing up your reports you are to demonstrate your growing knowledge of art and architecture by using the terms we are learning.

I. Research the place.

1. Select a place from the list below.
2. Research the historical antecedents (sited in parentheses) in the library in room 208 and on-line.
Take notes from the text, being sure to copy down the bibliographic information of the text.
3. Research the site

- History of the event or person or age
- History of the time the architecture was made
- History and engineering of the making of the site
- Official web-sites
- Recognized critical authorities
- Blogs and personal pages
- Historical Antecedents

Take notes from the texts, being sure to copy down the bibliographic information of the texts.

Write a summative reflection of a couple pages on what you think the place is supposed to mean, including as many details from the place as possible to support your ideas.

II. Visit the place.

1. Bring pencil and paper and camera.
Sketch the place: make a ground plan and draw certain architectural features. Take pictures as well.
2. Write down your impressions of the place: how you feel moving about the place, what you feel at certain spots and why, how it varies from what you expected. Consider the use of space, the texture of building materials, sculptures, paintings, words, designs, colors, variations in size, outdoor and indoor aspects, location of site in its surroundings, location of site in general, etc.
3. Repeat but from the impressions of a family member or friend.
4. Consider the list of questions from the attached handout.

Write descriptions of what you are examining. This trains you to be able to name what you see.

Take photographs of what you are examining, for use in your powerpoint.

Note differences between what you saw on line and in real life. Consider your expectations.

Copy down information about the site from wall text, pamphlets, docents, etc,

Record personal reflections (and a friend's) about the items or space:

- who would have made this and why,
- who would have commissioned this and why,
- how is the site used,
- what is a person to think and feel about the site,
- what do you think and feel about the site today,
- what does the site reveal about the ideas and practices of the culture,
- how does it relate to the literature we have read, and
- how those ideas and practices relate to us today.

III write a five-minute slideshow presentation.

Create a thoughtful reflection on the site and its significance to culture and to. You'll move from the objective (description and facts) to the subjective (personally reactions), but you can also mix this process up a bit.

- Incorporate visuals and your notes (see above) into your presentation to illustrate what you have learned
- comments on the “sacredness” of the experience and what that does to or for your understanding of the site under examination. You can consider your culture’s habit of symbolically referencing the past to inspire formality and mystery and ancientness.
- Consider what you think the place is supposed to mean and its success or failure in achieving its goals, including as many details from the place and from your impressions as possible to support your ideas. While writing you can compare and contrast to your original expectations.

The following is a list of places to visit, but it is by no means exhaustive. You may suggest alternative sites that fit with the idea, and I will let you know if they will work.

Architecture

Federal Hall, Lower Manhattan (Greek Temple)
 Grant’s Tomb, 122 St. and Riverside Drive, Manhattan (Mausoleum)
 Low Library, Columbia University (Pantheon)
 Washington Arch, Washington Square (Triumphal arches)
 Soldiers and Sailors Monument Arch, Grand Army Plaza, Prospect Park, Brooklyn (Triumphal arches)

Places of Worship

Cathedral Basilica of Newark (Gothic churches)
 Riverside Church, next to Grant’s Tomb (Gothic churches)
 Cathedral of St. John the Divine (Gothic churches)
 Cloisters, (Metropolitan Museum of Art), Fort Tryon, Manhattan (St. Gall monastery)

Outside of NYC Places

Lincoln Memorial (Temple of Zeus)
 Jefferson Memorial (Pantheon)
 US Capitol (Pantheon and/or St Peter’s Basilica, Rome)

Sculpture

World War 1 Memorial, Edgemont Park, Montclair, NJ (obelisk)
 Statue of Liberty (Colossus of Rhodes)