A Viewer’s Experience: Essay 1

After you complete three viewings of the artwork you selected in *Hildur Asgeirsdottir Jonsson*, read your informal writings and make notes about your viewing process. As you do this, look for changes in your perception and ideas that reoccur. Highlight anything in your informal writings that seems intriguing.

Using your informal writings and notes as a guide, write an essay that analyzes your process of viewing the artwork you selected.

- This needs to be a thesis-driven essay.
- The intended audience for this essay should be a general reader who is not familiar with the exhibition or the artwork you selected.
- It is not necessary to analyze every aspect of your viewing process in this essay. Focus your essay on one or several things about your viewing process that you think are interesting to explore.

**Typed Draft Due:**
Monday, September 16
Post your draft to Blackboard by 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 18 & Friday, September 20
Bring 2 copies of your draft to class.

**Final Essay Due:**
Wednesday, September 25 in class

**Length:** 3-5 pages double-spaced

**Font:** Something easy to read and professional
Exhibition Analysis Exercise

As you explore *Classless Society*, look at the way the exhibition is broken up into individual areas. Choose one of these areas and study it carefully. As you do this, follow these steps:

1. Draw a map of the area.

2. Record what you notice about the relationships between the artworks. Think about the similarities the works share. Think about their differences. Discuss how their placement together in this area of the exhibition influences your response to them.

3. Read the wall text that appears in the area you selected. Analyze how this text influences your response to the works on view.

4. Examine the lighting, the color of the walls, the placement of the walls, and any other noticeable qualities. Consider how all of these things impact your response to this part of the exhibition.

5. Discuss how the area you have selected supports and/or does not support the focus of the exhibition stated in the introductory wall text.
Essay 2: 
Exhibition Analysis

Using your “Exhibition Analysis Exercise” handout as a guide, analyze one area in *Classless Society*.

After you complete this process, write an essay that analyzes how the curatorial choices evident in the area of the exhibition you selected support and/or do not support the focus of the exhibition stated in the introductory text on view in the gallery.

- This needs to be a thesis-driven essay.
- The intended readers for this essay should be people who have not visited this exhibition or the Tang, but who are knowledgeable about museums and the job of a curator.
- While it is not a requirement for this essay, you may want to add resonance to your analysis by discussing how this exhibition serves the mission of the Tang Museum.
- To cite your sources, use MLA and follow the “Exhibition Style Guide” handout provided in class.

**Typed Draft Due:**
Monday, October 7
Post your draft on Blackboard by 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 9 and Friday, October 11
Bring 2 copies of your draft to class.

**Final Essay Due:**
Wednesday, October 16 in class

**Length:** 3-5 pages double-spaced
**Font:** Something easy to read and professional