

Queens College
Art Department / Photography & Imaging
PHOTO 375 - Photography Special Project
Writing Assignments
Prof. Greco

Reading & Writing – A Primer

Discussions, readings, critiques, and exhibitions that we will experience are academic, philosophical, and complex - which makes them difficult to understand or discuss or sometimes even read. They are examinations and explorations into the very meaning, definition, and essence of what photography is and how it functions in our lives. This is not easy to articulate. So, take your time with the materials, make the effort to try to understand and relate. Take notes of the parts that really make sense to you - and the parts that make no sense to you - and bring those to our discussions. I am looking for honest responses and reactions to discussions that are meant to help you situate yourself in the enormous canon of photography. Use the tools available to you to help you understand this. Use the internet to search for interpretation and analysis – use AI to help you understand particularly difficult ideas. But always double check and use common sense when seeking help from the interwebiverse. And never hand in anything AI gives you verbatim – it is essentially plagiarism – but use it as a way to help clarify and organize your thoughts and improve your understanding and your writing.

Trip Journal:

Students are required to attend three creative or cultural events and compose a written response of approximately one paragraph for each experience. While visiting gallery or museum exhibitions is the most direct option, a wide range of events may fulfill this requirement, including dance performances, poetry readings, open mic nights, or other artistic happenings. The intent of this assignment is to encourage engagement with diverse forms of creative expression and to foster thoughtful reflection on how these experiences inform and inspire one's own artistic practice. Remember, this is a response paper not a research paper; I want to hear your thoughts, feelings, and reactions to the event, not a description or close reading. Ask yourself these questions: What is this about? What do I think the artist/creator is trying to communicate? Does the work communicate this to me? What techniques did the artist use and did these enhance the power of the imagery? What emotional or intellectual reactions do I have to the work? Submit this as a single shared Word doc.

The Shooting Project Proposal:

Students will write a 1–2-page, double-spaced project proposal consisting of two distinct paragraphs: one addressing the logistical components of the project and the other articulating its conceptual framework. The purpose of this assignment is to reflect the expectations of the professional art world, where the ability to write clearly and persuasively about one's work is essential. Nearly all professional opportunities for artists - such as exhibitions, residencies, grants, and public art commissions - require some form of written proposal or statement. Individuals and organizations offering financial or institutional support must be assured that an

artist comprehends the full scope of their project - logistically, financially, and conceptually - and possesses the ability to execute it successfully.

The first paragraph is the logistics – the nuts and bolts of your proposal. What will you photograph? Where will you photograph it? Digital or analog? What cameras and lenses will you use? What is your shooting schedule? What size prints will you make? What kind of media? Do you need to schedule models? How many and on what dates? Give me a breakdown of your workflow – what phases of the project are you going to complete by which dates? Will this project need funding? What’s your budget? How will you complete the project with the budget available? Do you need to travel for the project? Do you need a studio, or do you need portable studio equipment? Think through every little detail of this project and account for it in this first paragraph.

The second paragraph should describe the conceptual value of the proposal. What is this work about? What are you trying to communicate through these images? What meanings, symbols, ideas, thoughts are you trying to portray in your work? How is this type of work relevant to you? How is it relevant to your audience? Why should we look at this work? This is an opportunity to research other photographers/artists that inspire you. Give me some examples of artists working in a similar way and with a similar message to their work. How do you compare or contrast with these artists? Being a photographer is not only about being technically adept but also understanding why you want to take pictures in the first place. Why photography? Why identify as a photographer?

Send your proposal as a Teams or Google doc so I can make edits and suggestions inline. We will work on your proposal in several rounds so at the end of the semester you will have a well written and concise final proposal.

File Submission: If you need to download any written work please send as a Word doc and PDF. File format naming convention as follows: “first initial lastname_assignment name_semester and year_version.docx” for example “mgreco_ project proposal_fall 2024_final.docx”