

## MOMA Field Trip 9.27.18 - ToK Assignment

Your first assignment is to enjoy yourself and soak in the art in this amazing museum.

Second, I would like to be thinking about how the works in this museum, individually, by collection or collectively might be useful as examples to illustrate arguments made in either the prescribed essay topic we are all writing together (1) or the topic(s) you are thinking of writing on in the spring. Here are the topics for easy reference:

1. "The quality of knowledge is best measured by how many people accept it." Discuss this claim with reference to two areas of knowledge.
2. "The production of knowledge is always a collaborative task and never solely a product of the individual." Discuss this statement with reference to two areas of knowledge.
3. Do good explanations have to be true?
4. "Disinterestedness is essential in the pursuit of knowledge." Discuss this claim with reference to two areas of knowledge.
5. "The production of knowledge requires accepting conclusions that go beyond the evidence for them." Discuss this claim.
6. "One way to assure the health of a discipline is to nurture contrasting perspectives." Discuss this claim.

Here is the assignment:

1. Form groups from 4-7 with which you will tour the museum, eat lunch and present (parts 6)
2. As you tour the museum, think about how the seven aesthetic theories discussed in class help you think about the works you see and to help you understand and assess the value of those works. Also, consider what both Picasso and Tolstoy wrote about the nature and value of art.
3. As you tour the museum, monitor your own feelings and sense of being. What impact does the environment have on you as a knower? Work on incorporating self reflection into the presentation described in 6 below.
4. Individually, identify one work (and any supporting information) that you believe relates to one of the prescribe topics. Take a picture of this work and then explain in 100-150 words how this work might be incorporated as an example in an essay on one of the prescribed topics (**due Tuesday, October 2**)
5. Individually, Identify and photograph **three works** (or groups or collections of works) and any interpretive material (descriptions, artist, dates etc.) that you find raise the most interesting questions regarding art as an area of knowledge (do this in the museum).
6. As a group, prepare a presentation, using three works chosen from all of those selected by your group members, that makes an argument about the value and nature of art as a area of knowledge. The three chosen works should be tied together into a consistent argument and not simply presented as an analysis of three separate works. Your argument is up to you, but you should be thinking about what your argument will be as you tour the museum. Your presentation should include screen sized reproductions of the three works, and should draw upon other resources, as appropriate, to support your argument (including the aesthetic theories, Picasso, Tolstoy and the ethical theories we examined last year.) Presentations will be graded based on originality, the quality of your argument, how effectively other resources are used as tools of analysis and the professionalism of your group as it presents. Presentations should be between 4-5 minutes in length. Presentations will be due on **Tuesday, October 9**. Hint: Think about the KQs that emerge from the works in the museum and about art and its relation to knowledge generally. Your argument can be an answer to this knowledge question.
7. As a class, be prepared next **Tuesday (October 2)** to complete a non moderated discussion on the following topic, "How do the works in the MoMA (individually or collectively) create knowledge? How is this knowledge distinct from and similar to the knowledge generated by the other AoKs? (Identify issues you would like to raise and works that demonstrate your observations and/or questions).

Trip resources:

[MoMA website](#)

[MoMA Map \(PDF\)](#)

[Metreon Restaurant list](#)

[Map of the Yerba Buena Gardens area](#)

Times - Please be punctual!

Leave Tracy High - 7:15

Arrive at Museum - between 9-10:00

Breakfast/Coffee on Mission street/Exploration of the art in Yerba Buena Park 9-10:30 - (There is a Superduper Burger and a Starbucks on the Mission side of the Metreon that both have coffee and breakfast items. The stores in the Metreon don't open until 10:30)

Meet back at the entrance to the museum 10:30

Tour museum in small groups - 10:45-1:00

Lunch in the museum or at the Metreon - 1:00-2:00

Meet back at the main entrance to the museum at 2:10 - Be on time!

Return home to Tracy - 4:00 - 4:30 PM

Other details . . .

Bring either a sack lunch or money to eat out. \$20.00 should be more than adequate.

Please remember that while you are here you represent yourself, our class and Tracy High school in all that you say or do. Remember that all school rules apply. Please remain in your group while in the museum and in groups of no fewer than 3 at lunch. At no time should anyone be alone outside the museum - stay with your group! Please feel free to call or text me if there are any problems. I will give you my number on the bus.