

MOMA Field Trip 10.1.19 - 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. "Others have seen what is and asked why. I have seen what could be and asked why not" (Pablo Picasso). Explore this distinction with reference to two areas of knowledge.
2. "There is a sharp line between describing something and offering an explanation of it." To what extent do you agree with this claim?
3. Does it matter that your personal circumstances influence how seriously your knowledge is taken?
4. "The role of analogy is to aid understanding rather than to provide justification." To what extent do you agree with this statement?
5. "Given that every theory has its limitations, we need to retain a multiplicity of theories to understand the world." Discuss this claim with reference to two areas of knowledge.
6. "Present knowledge is wholly dependent on past knowledge." Discuss this claim with reference to two areas of knowledge.

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 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). Then, choose one work of these three that you believe relates to one of the prescribe topics. Explain in 100-150 words how this work might be incorporated as an example in an essay on one of the prescribed topics (**due Thursday, October 3, 1 annotation**)
5. 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 an 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 slides should **only** include screen sized reproductions of the three works. Your argument may draw upon other resources, as appropriate, to support your points (including the aesthetic theories, Picasso, Tolstoy and the ethical theories we examined last year.) Presentations are informal and should be between 2-3 minutes in length. Presentations will be due on **Thursday, October 10**. 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. The maximum time limit will be strictly observed. Class discussion will be conducted only after all of the presentations.

Trip resources:

- [MoMA website](#)
- [MoMA Map \(PDF\)](#)
- [Metreon Restaurant list](#)
- [Map of the Yerba Buena Gardens area](#)

Times - Please be punctual!

Meet at bus drop - 6:45

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 10:45

Tour museum in small groups - 11:00 -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!