



SUGGESTED MODELS FOR CLASS SESSIONS AT THE JOHNSON MUSEUM

VISUAL LITERACY

Learning how to look actively and critically is not only crucial for navigating the complex visual environment of the twenty-first century, it sharpens many of the same skills that are used in analysis and writing: keen observation, interpretation, forming and supporting an argument, etc.

ART AS VISUAL CULTURE/CULTURAL CONTEXT

Works of art can provide broader cultural context for a particular period or place. By introducing students to visual culture as part of a social and historical moment, this approach further aids understanding of course material and challenges students' preconceptions about historical material.

ART AS PRAXIS TO THEORY

Works of art can instantiate, reinforce, or test the understanding of ideas and conceptual frameworks encountered in class. This model asks students to articulate how the arguments they have learned thus far are supported or countered, furthered, disrupted, or redirected by the information and position that the artwork presents.

ART AS PRIMARY SOURCE

Using art as a visual primary source introduces students to the concept of art as a cultural document and explores text-related skills in a fresh way. It introduces students to the idea that art, like any cultural document, is not neutral or timeless, even when it purports to be.

ART AS CREATIVE STIMULUS

Works of art can serve as inspiration for class assignments such as research papers, visual analysis exercises, creative writing, musical compositions, student presentations, blog posts, or oral language exams.

MUSEUM AS INSTITUTION

The Museum is an institution that collects, displays, and preserves certain cultural objects. Analyzing the museum as a physical and social institution enables students to understand the theoretical, cultural, and practical implications of these practices.

Some of these terms and ideas were adapted from *Allen Memorial Art Museum Oberlin College: Academic Programs* by Liliانا Milkova.

JOHNSON

MUSEUM OF ART

To schedule a session for your course, please email **Alison Rittershaus** at **akr73@cornell.edu** and allow three weeks' notice to arrange a visit.