AHST 3319-001 (87067)
20th Century European Art:
Avant-Garde and Aftermath
Dr. Charissa N. Terranova
Fall 2017
Thursday 1:00-3:45
SOM 1.110
09/21/17

Writing Tips

1.) Be aware of your audience. With the writing assignments in this class, imagine you are writing for a hypothetical reader of the arts section in the *New York Times*. Imagine that you are not writing for your professor (other than for a grade). You are not recounting the ingredients in a recipe. You are not writing a diary entry. Paraphrase, guide, and transition accordingly. Be clear.
2.) 'wc' means "word choice"
3.) Italicize the titles of books, magazines, journals, and newspapers.
4.) Place works of art in quotation marks.
5.) After you have introduced the artist or critic *once*, reference him/her by way of his/her last name.
6.) Be certain to spell correctly the artist, critic, professor's, and your own last name.
7.) Use standard formatting, which includes indentation, double spacing, and standard margins.
8.) Italicize or underline the title of books, journals, magazines, and newspapers – online and in paper.
9.) Use the active voice rather than the passive voice. The passive voice does not identify who, the subject, performs the action, such as in the following: "The figure at the center of 'Winter' was painted as an allegory of the season." The active voice is clearer, more straightforward, and identifies who performs the action, such as in the following: "Berthe Morisot painted an allegorical female figure for the season in 'Winter'."
10.) Read and follow the instructions of the assignment.
11.) Avoid hyperbole and exaggeration.
12.) Avoid stilted language. Stilted language is unnecessarily wordy, abstruse and pompous.
13.) Conjunctions such as "while," "whereas," "however," and "yet" signal contrast between two distinct clauses or sentences.
14.) Use the first person sparingly. You may use it where necessary, to get you from one place to another in your writing. Excessive use of "I" casts one's writing in a diaristic (like a diary) or overly personal tone.
15.) It's = it is; its = possessive form of it
16.) Avoid contractions such as "wouldn't," "hadn't," etc.
17.) Think carefully about syntax. Syntax is a. the study of the rules for the formation of grammatical sentences in a language. b. the study of the patterns of formation of sentences and phrases from words. Good syntax is easy to follow and clear.
18.) In order to avoid errors in syntax, you must proofread your essay.
19.) Try proofreading out loud to a friend. Or, call a family member and ask them to listen to your short essay. Even if you're alone, you're better off reading your essay out loud than not.
20.) Please use spell check.
21.) Please avoid repetition of the same word; vary your language.
22.) Please avoid saying the same thing over and over again. Even if you say the same thing in a different way, you are still saying the same thing.
23.) When in doubt about format or grammar, please refer to a writing guide, such as the MLA handbook or the *Chicago Manual of Style*.
24.) There are two secrets to learning how to write. The first one is **active and frequent reading.** In order to be a good writer you must read a lot and you must take heed of the writer's use of words. I advise you to start by reading the newspaper on a daily basis. I learned how to become a better writer by religiously reading *The New York Times*. The other secret to good writing is writing itself. You might think about keeping a diary, starting a literary magazine, publishing in the campus newspaper, **publishing on-line in a blog of your own or in an electronic journal.** With respect to the latter, publishing on-line, choose a topic that makes you passionate – art, architecture, politics, sociology, economics, etc.
25.) For further help with your writing, please visit the UTD Writing Center in McDermott Library MC 1.312 972-883-6736. Email: writingcenter@utdallas.edu