

English 150

Assignment #4: Understanding Place or Artifact: Campus Landscape, Building, or Art

Chapters 6 and 9 in *Engaging Questions*

Fall 2017

Date Due 9/29 (Friday) by midnight

Peer Response (rough draft ready) Week 6 Monday

INTRODUCTION:

William Sturmer, in an article in *The Journal of Higher Education*—"Environmental Code: Creating a Sense of Place on the College Campus"—connects the physical campus, the purpose of the campus, and the students and faculty who live and work there:

The design and construction of the physical aspects of the university should complement and strengthen the mission of the university to stimulate students in the effective use of learning opportunities. The physical environment should facilitate the process by which men and women seek to understand themselves and others through experiential and vicarious encounters with the extensions of man and nature. (Sturmer 99)



Above: Morrill Hall w/ the "Dinkey"

PURPOSE:

In Assignment #3, you profiled a campus program or organization and its purpose at ISU. In this assignment, you will be analyzing a physical part of campus you may have seen but do not know much about. This assignment asks you to deepen your **understanding of the history, importance, and appropriateness of a building or piece of art on the ISU campus.**

Your purpose is to find out all that you can about one facet of this new place of which you are now an inhabitant (one building, one work of art) and to analyze how and why the campus designers, architects, landscape architects, or artists chose to plan and create that particular feature as they did. This kind of project is called "place-based" writing, and this assignment allows you to go beyond fact-based description to some commentary (interpretation) as well. *This assignment's purpose is to explore and explain how your chosen campus building or campus artifact was created and placed.*

GETTING STARTED:

To choose a focus for this place-based analysis, first decide if you'd like to write about a piece of art or a building on campus. **You may choose any public piece of art on campus OR one of these buildings (any other ideas, see me):**

- Beardshear Hall
- Catt Hall
- Curtiss Hall
- Parks Library
- The Hub
- Morrill Hall
- Troxel Hall
- Molecular Biology Building
- Hach Hall

Keep these basics in mind about effective analytical and interpretive writing: it describes the subject and its parts in sufficient detail that the later analysis makes sense; it examines how the parts of the subject interact with each other; it uses some research; it uses a logical and easy-to-follow organization; it offers an interesting insight on the topic; the conclusion summarizes the whole. You will need to draw on the material in the several different sources available to you (see list of possibilities below), making sure to properly acknowledge the sources and images you use.

Art on Campus

- University Museums' Visual Literacy and Learning
<https://www.museums.iastate.edu/learn/visual-literacy--learning/>
- Art on Campus Collection
<https://www.museums.iastate.edu/visit/art-on-campus-collection/> (if this link does now work, go to <https://www.museums.iastate.edu/> and choose Visit from the top menu bar, and then Art on Campus.

The Buildings of Iowa State

- *From Prairie Sod to Campus Cornerstones: Building Our Campus History* Exhibit
<http://www.add.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/exhibits/buildings/index.html>
- History of Iowa State: Campus Buildings
<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~isu150/history/campus.html>
- H. Summerfield Day's *The Iowa State University Campus and Its Buildings* (also available on Moodle in pdf form)
<http://www.add.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/exhibits/150/campus/campus.html>

DOCUMENTATION:

Correctly identify and quote or paraphrase outside material that you use in your essay. For

instance, if you use information from the ISU Museums website, indicate the source of the information within your sentence and in a parenthetical citation at the end of the sentence. You also need to acknowledge the source of any images you use. You WILL need to have an accurate Works Cited page in MLA.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

At a minimum, your paper needs to satisfy the general criteria below. However, the grade is based not just on whether a feature is present or not, but on *how well* it has been integrated into your paper. Your instructor will provide you with a rubric with criteria specific to this assignment. Also see your *ISUComm Foundation Courses Student Guide, 2017- 2019* about evaluation of individual projects.

Context

- The lead paragraph introduces the audience to the place or feature (e.g., building, artwork) and reveals the interesting focus that emerged in your analysis and commentary

Substance

- The paper shows relevant insights about this part of the ISU landscape and is not simply a collection of descriptive facts about the place
- The paper contains carefully chosen, specific information about the place, its history, its campus context and is developed with sufficient detail

Organization

- The paper is organized clearly around the key points made about the place or feature, its history, and its campus context. Specifically, you introduce your thesis about the place or feature in the first paragraph and don't just present a name and location
- The paper is appropriately organized into paragraphs and uses transitions to link one idea to the next

Style

- If the paper includes either direct quotations or paraphrases from the ISU websites or other sources, you provide in-text citation and accurate Works Cited
- Problems with grammar and mechanics do not detract from the paper

Delivery

- Page layout makes the paper easy to read