

Aesthetics: Perception, Subjectivity, Embodiment

Fall 2009

Descriptive Textual Analysis

Description of the Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to **analyze** a difficult portion of the text and provide—in your own words—a **descriptive** account of the author's **argument**. Your essay should be clearly organized around the following questions:

1. What **thesis** or conclusion is the writer arguing for?
2. Why is this thesis **important**?
3. What **reasons** does the writer offer to support the thesis?

Before starting your essay, be sure that you have a reasonably good understanding of the text. Read it at least twice, more or less straight through and uninterrupted the first time, and then carefully and systematically the second.

Be sure to look up unfamiliar words and make an informal glossary for yourself.

If there are sections you do not understand, even after re-reading and sustained reflection, and these sections are **crucial** to assessing the writer's argument for the thesis, explain as clearly as possible what it is you find difficult. Be sure to cite sections and page numbers for these passages. Then try your best to propose one or two possible **interpretations**.

In **most** cases, there is no need to include extended direct quotations and, in fact, you should **avoid** them. It is far more helpful to restate the writer's claims in your own words.

Direct quotations **are** important, however, when you need to **clarify** an important point or if the passage is a **central focus** for close analysis and discussion.

Note: This is **not** a **critical** essay or an opinion paper. You are not being asked to evaluate and critique the text in question. Your task is limited to **close reading** and **explication**, i.e. the development of a thoughtful and sustained interpretation.

Requirements

You must choose **one** section of Kant's *Critique of Judgement* from the list of sections for sessions 3, 4, 5, or 7 on the syllabus.

Your essay should be approximately **5 pages** in length.

All papers are due at the **beginning** of the class meeting when the section you've chosen is scheduled for discussion.

Please submit the paper to me by email as an MS Word **attachment**.

All papers must be run through a spell-checker. You will be evaluated on the form and content of your papers, so pay close attention to both appearance and grammar.

All papers must be **double-spaced** with **one-inch margins** and in **12-point** type. If you need additional instructions or guidelines, see me.

Statement on Academic Honesty

It is expected that all work submitted for a grade in this course reflects the work of the student submitting it. Students are **encouraged** to discuss their work with others (inside and outside of class), and to exchange drafts of papers with one another for comments and criticisms. But keep in mind that if you borrow an idea from someone else, you must **cite the source**, even if it is based on a conversation or correspondence.

Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will result in a **failing** grade for the **course**.

Anyone who does not fully understand the standards of academic honesty should speak to me in advance of submitting coursework.