Museum Report Worksheet

Your report will be in the form of an essay.

You may be assigned to visit a museum, historic house or site, or it may be a bonus option. The choices of museum will be announced to your class; all museums are not suitable for every course. In addition to the guidelines on essay writing found elsewhere on this page, museum reports should follow these guidelines:

Describe your museum experience: In a general way, tell what was it like and what types of things did you see. Did any of the exhibits relate to something you have studied? Include a mention of the date of your visit. (If you wait until after mid-term, this visit may probably be more meaningful.)

Your report may include comments on the quality of presentation you encounter: Are the exhibits explained effectively? Are personnel well-informed? Is the facility well-designed? (It is not necessary to include such comments.)

Describe five specific artifacts: If you visit a typical museum, select items from various parts of the museum—not all from the same exhibit area! Make notes on the information in the exhibit label or catalog, which may be helpful when you write the report. "Artifacts" may not be limited to objects in a museum display case—they can be buildings, equipment, even features of the landscape on a battlefield. If you are able to do so, connect what you see to the course.

Follow the general guidelines for formatting that are found elsewhere in this site.

Length -- at least one page, do not exceed 1,000 words (about 2 ½ pages).

Timing:

You will schedule this assignment at your own convenience, but you may get more from it by waiting a few weeks into the course. Be certain that you know how to find the museum you have chosen, that you know what the parking and admission requirements will be, and that you have allowed sufficient time—two to three hours—for the visit. A preliminary visit to the organization's web page will help plan most of this.

However, remember the results of waiting to the last minute won’t be good!

Due dates will be announced with the assignment.