Web-Based Research Assignment: Recognizing the Gods and Goddesses in Art

This assignment requires you to write a few informative, well-crafted paragraphs about an object of art. The object you choose must include a depiction of a Greek god or goddess who is identified by an attribute (or a combination of attributes), or through typical iconography (as described in my video “The 12 Olympians and their Attributes”). The image you choose must not be featured in the video, but it may be one included in a Blackboard exercise (though you need to find it online).

You may choose one of the 12 Olympians, or another divinity such as Iris or Hecate if he or she is included in the OCD or OCCC. Provided that your object includes an attribute or an example of traditional iconography, you are not limited to research on ancient art.

Directions: Find an image online of a relevant object that is currently housed in a museum. Following the requirements listed below, write an informative piece about the painting (or sculpture, coin, etc.). Imagine your text being displayed as a very detailed label (or “wall text”) on a museum wall.

Length: Approximately two pages, double spaced, 12pt, with one inch margins.

Include an Image: Paste a copy of the image onto a third page, or incorporate it (as Athena is pasted in on this page—but take care to present approximately two pages of text). Note that the British Museum gives blanket permission to copy their photographs for uses other than print publication as long as you include: “© The Trustees of the British Museum.” For other museums, it is fine—unless they say otherwise—to use their images in a private context (on a non-public Blackboard site or in a student paper other than a dissertation, for example).

To do well on this assignment, you must:

1. Choose an appropriate object, as described above
2. Include a title for the object (you may need to invent this)
3. Include the name of the artist (if known)
4. Name the museum and the museum’s location
5. Include a URL (or a hyperlink) for the image
6. Give the approximate date
7. Give the provenance (information about where the object was found), if known. (Unfortunately, you may need to write: “Provenance Unknown.”)
8. Identify the type of object (e.g. “Greek wine mixing bowl [called a krater],” or “Roman coin”). If the website is not specific about the identity of the object, you can just write something like “terracotta (clay) pot.”
9. Provide a description of the object
10. Provide information about the god or goddess depicted
11. Include at least one relevant quotation from the OCD or OCCC that support or expands your information
12. Incorporate or weave your selected quotation(s) into your own paragraph

Items 2 through 8 (above) may be simply listed rather than worked into sentences, but the rest of the assignment must be written in paragraph form.

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Grading: To do well, you will need to follow all the guidelines listed above, avoid grammatical mistakes and misspellings, and submit only your own work.

Optional:

- Quote one of the *Homeric Hymns*
- Include more than one image of the same object (e.g. a full view plus a detail)
- Include detailed information about the provenance or collection history (e.g. mention that it was discovered in an Etruscan tomb and was formerly in the collection of Lucien Bonaparte [brother of Napoleon]).
- Include the dimensions (size) of the object

What to Avoid: Under no circumstance should you copy someone else’s work without acknowledgment. Be careful not to imitate closely the language used on a website. Make sure that you submit your own work. When you use a quotation, you must use quotation marks. Otherwise, you could justly be accused of academic misconduct.

Writing Help: Please use the website and services of the KU Writing Center.

Note in particular that the Writing Center’s directions about Incorporating References explain that a quotation needs to be woven into your own writing, rather than piled on top of another quotation or just pasted in without an introduction.

For citations, please use MLA style unless you are trying to perfect your use of a different style required in another course. (Just let me know.) For citing the *OCD* or *OCCC*: Follow MLA style, as in this example for an article in a reference book: “Childhood Conceptions of Literacy.” *Handbook of Children's Literacy*. 2013. 11-30. Print.

Use MLA style to cite the online version if you use it. For help, see the website of Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab.

If you use hyperlinks, as I have in this document, I will not require you to use an official citation style to identify your source for the object you choose. You may, for example write something like: “The image of this Roman tomb painting of the abduction or rape of Persephone (also called Proserpina by the Romans) is available on the website of the British Museum.”

Where to Search for your Object: The online databases of the following museums are excellent sources:

- British Museum
- Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Perseus Digital Library

You may choose an item found on a website of another museum, but please note: If you decide not to use Perseus or an official museum database, you must read the information provided by KU’s Writing Center posted under Evaluating Web Sites and proceed with extreme caution. Theoi.com can be useful for getting started, but I recommend that you avoid it.