Analysis Report of Museums & Social Issues

My goal as an instructor is to teach in a way that helps you think about social issues and social psychology as it applies to the world outside of this classroom. But how can I assess this? We don’t share the same exact experiences, so it is difficult for me to understand if and how you are applying what we are learning beyond the classroom. One way we can share (to some extent) the same experience is by having you and I attend the same museum. This gives us some common reference points – specific artifacts, historical narratives, same physical space, key figures – that you can write about in the light of what you have learned in this class. I suspect some of you in this classroom have attended some, or maybe none, of the museums in the nearby area. These places are great repositories of collective memory and tell us a bit about our local and national communities. I propose that many of the themes (e.g., race, education, gender, social class) we have been discussing in this course have resonance with the “stuff” in these museums because they focus on the human experience.

The analysis report should be a relatively short, concise, and thoughtful reaction to visiting one of the museums listed below. Your paper should be based on your personal experience and how that experience relates to some of the class readings and themes. In other words, the museum you decide to explore, and theme you choose should guide your paper so that it is a representation of what you have learned in class and what you experience while viewing a collection of artifacts that are deemed important to a specific historical event.

Each report will be about ONE page, with no more than 500 words total. Print your reports single-spaced.

The heading of your paper should contain the following information:
- Social psychology theme(s) X (Y, Z, etc.)
- The museum you attended and are analyzing
- By your name, your email address

For example:
- Racial Segregation in:
  - Brown vs. Board of Education Museum
  - By John Brown, jayhawk4life@ku.edu

Each report will be graded on a scale of 0 to 15. You will get a minimum of three points if you turn in a report in the required format, on time, and that demonstrates to our satisfaction that you attended the museum. You will get more points if you show that you can interpret material in the museum in the light of new things you have learned in the class.

Attend ONE of the five museums listed below:
1. Brown vs. Board of Education Museum (Topeka, KS)
2. Haskell Cultural Center (Lawrence, KS)
3. World War I Museum (Kansas City, KS)
4. Negro Baseball League Museum (Kansas City, KS)
5. Jazz Museum (Kansas City, KS)

A hard-copy of your paper is DUE on December 4 (Thursday) in class. Information about each museum can be found on the internet.