



# Student Success Office

## Tips for Success

# Reference Guide for Success in ART 100

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There are four general types of assignments you will encounter in this class.

### **DISCUSSION BOARDS:**

These discussion boards are a great way to dive deeper into a subject.

- Do them! They are a relatively easy part of your overall grade, but many students don't do them and this is silly because they can make the difference in your grade!!!
- They are fun: they allow you to explore a subject, express your own opinions and learn how to write about art without the pressure of a big paper.

### **QUIZZES:**

These quizzes are designed to help you learn the vocabulary and put it into practice.

- Before taking the quiz, review all the resources in the module.
- Take the practice quiz first, so you understand the format of the quizzes.
- You have 2 chances to take the quiz. If you don't do as well as you hoped on your first effort, go back and review my power points before re-taking it.
- If you skipped some of the resources in the module, in spite of my advice above, go back and review the ones you haven't.

### **PROJECTS:**

These are sometimes hard for beginners because you are learning a new visual "language". Pay attention to what I say in in my presentations. Take notes. I am using this language every time I lecture. Here are some tips:

- You don't need "talent" to do the art projects, but you do need to understand the concepts. The projects are a chance to put these ideas into action.
- Be brave and ask your questions!!!! If something is unclear to you, chances are it is to others, as well. Ask me to clarify- it's the simplest and most helpful way to really understand a new concept. The best resource is standing in front of you in class, or at the end of a quick email... me!
- Try more than once! Your first idea may not work or may not be your strongest. Don't be afraid to try something, and then re-do it. Ask yourself why you think it is not working well (is it the color? the texture? Try changing that bit. **Artists do this all the time!**)
- Make sure you take GOOD photos to submit art projects! A good photo is:
  - one where the lighting is good (no shadows across project)
  - the project is centered and square in the frame of photo

- you don't include any dirty laundry – just your project!
- Include the written explanation I ask for... sometimes when we are learning a new language (like visual arts) we can't quite achieve our goal. Giving me a written explanation allows you to use a familiar language (writing) to help explain what you are trying to accomplish visually. It will help me understand your intention better. And, of course, it's required!

### **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

These are hard for students because you may not have a lot of practice in writing. That's ok. That's what the writing center is for! Here are some tips:

- Review all the resources I provide.
- READ the directions carefully!
- Research your topic, if necessary, beyond google and Wikipedia!
- Use the language/vocabulary from our class- the Elements and Principles.
- For an essay, make sure you have an introduction, your main ideas, and a conclusion.
- Don't just repeat the same thing 3 different ways to "plump" up your word count!

### **BEFORE SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS:**

I often find students lose points for silly, avoidable mistakes such as:

- not meeting the required word count minimum
- submitting only part of what I asked for (like submitting an art project without a written explanation)
- Ask yourself:
  - Does your submission contain each of the required elements?
  - Is it formatted in the appropriate way?
  - Does your submission address the assignment's challenge?
  - Does it use our vocabulary, if appropriate?

### **IN GENERAL, I RECOMMEND YOU:**

1. Work with a study-buddy.
2. Take advantage of the "work session" classes and bring your questions for the teacher.
3. Come to my office hours or email me questions.
4. Seek help in the Writing Center.
5. Try not to do your homework at the absolute last minute... lots of good intentions get compromised at 11:50 at night!
6. Communicate with the teacher if you have a personal challenge! Accommodations can often be made on an individual basis.
7. Decide which part of your week you will dedicate to this class. Put it on your schedule.
8. Do not miss an assignment. Do your best and submit something, rather than nothing.