**CONTEXTUALISM?**

The last fifteen years have been a period of intense construction in New York City. These new buildings are not placed in pristine settings, but injected into a densely layered urban environment. What concepts, if any, dictate how such buildings relate to their environments?

Modernism saw a building as a sculptural object devoid of its time and place. Starting in the 1980’s, architects began to reconsider this theory and sought to design contemporary buildings which were sensitive to and compatible with their surroundings. Are buildings designed as abstractions devoid of where they will be built? Are they meant to contrast with the historic fabric surrounding them? Or are designed to reflect and relate to the buildings around them.

In this research paper, we will explore the idea of contextualism. Does your assigned building relate to its surroundings? Whether or not, explain how this occurs. What strategies have been used by the architect to achieve this effect?

**Outline** The following is the suggested outline for the paper of 6-8 pages:

Introduction State the thesis or idea at the root of your paper. ½ - 1 page

Describe the new building and its surroundings. 1-2 pages

Compare and contrast styles, techniques and materials used. 2 pages

Analysis Evaluate the success or failure of the building in relationship to the neighborhood

Support your opinion with a series of arguments. 1-2 pages

Conclusion Restate thesis and summarize the research and thought process. ½- 1 pages

Bibliography In addition to internet sources, include a minimum of three articles from books

or periodicals.

**Format**

All identifying information appears on a title sheet.

Use one-inch margins throughout and a 11-point font.

Number pages at the bottom of the page.

**THE FREEDOM TOWER**