

HUM 100 Project 1 Artifact Chart Guidelines and Rubric

Overview

The enduring relevance of the humanities is that they encourage us to consider a number of “big ideas.” What is culture? How do we go about studying it? What is the relationship between cultural artifacts and the culture in which they are created? What is the relationship between artists and the creators of “cultural artifacts” and the things they create? How is human meaning generated through cultural creations? We humans seem driven to express and create in our search to understand and be understood.

You will complete two related projects in this course that will be turned in separately. In Project 1, you will choose an artifact of human creative expression and respond to a series of questions about it to complete an artifact chart. In Project 2, you will use the insights gained from completing Project 1 to answer a series of short-answer responses about human expression.

For Project 1, you will choose an artifact of human creative expression from the world around you. This artifact can take any form and can be from any physical modality (visual, aural, tactile, etc.). The key is that you choose a form of expression you might experience any day that intrigues you and makes you want to know more about it. Once you have chosen your artifact, you will respond to the elements below on the provided artifact chart, culminating in questions about the artifact and what it might represent. You will use the insights you gain here when completing Project 2.

Project 1 will assess the following course outcomes, which you focus on throughout Themes 1 and 2:

- Develop questions about fundamental aspects of human culture that inform personal assumptions, beliefs, and values using evidence from cultural artifacts and systems
- Determine fundamental approaches to studying the humanities in addressing questions about how cultural artifacts and the culture they are created in have influenced each other

Prompt

Choose an artifact from the world around you that you could encounter any day. Use the provided artifact chart to think deeply about the artifact and its representation of human creative expression. **Your responses should be recorded on the [artifact chart](#).**

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed:

- I. **Describe the artifact** in detail. For instance, how would you describe it to someone who could not see it?
- II. Choose **elements of the artifact** that you believe are most important to how you experience it and explain why. For instance, what particularly catches your senses or makes you want to keep experiencing it? Does the choice of medium impact your experience?
- III. State your opinion on what you believe is the **purpose of this artifact** and the success of the creator in achieving the purpose. For instance, what message do you believe the creator is trying to express, and is that message successfully expressed?

- IV. Discuss how the artifact **reflects the culture** (or context) in which it exists. Be sure to address what aspects of culture have relevance for this artifact: politics, history, religion, social perceptions, technology, media, education, and so on. In other words, how do the artifact and its culture interrelate? For instance, how would a particular form of body modification reflect the urban culture in which you encountered it?
- V. Use the artifact to discuss how acts of creative expression **impact** and are impacted by the people and situations that surround it. How might the artifact and the person who created it have impacted each other? For instance, how might the geographic location where the artifact was made, the materials used to create the artifact, the medium of the creative process, or the environment where the artifact is displayed influence the creator's life or future creative work? How might the artifact and the culture or context in which it was created have impacted each other? For instance, does the artifact add to the understanding of the culture from which it was created? What contributions does it make to continuing on a dialogue about that culture and the importance of its artifacts?
- VI. **Pose questions** you have after thinking deeply about this artifact. What more do you want to know regarding:
 - a. The relationship between human **culture and expression**?
 - b. Your **personal assumptions** about artifacts of this sort and why they exist?
 - c. How **your values** have shaped and are shaped by your expression and that of others?
 - d. The relationship between the possible **intent** of the creator and your own **interpretation** of its meaning?
- VII. Speculate on how you would go about **answering these questions**. For instance, what sorts of things would you study about these kinds of artifacts and their contexts that might begin addressing these questions?

Rubric

Guidelines for Submission: Type your responses to the prompt on the [Artifact Chart](#). Bullet points and other notations are acceptable provided the requirements of the prompt are met.

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Needs Improvement (55%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Describe the Artifact	Meets "Proficient" criteria and descriptive details communicate a thoughtful observation of the artifact	Describes the artifact in detail	Describes the artifact but is cursory or over-generalized	Does not describe the artifact	9.5
Elements of the Artifact	Meets "Proficient" criteria and explanation of choices demonstrates insight into the personally intriguing nature of the artifact	Chooses important elements of the artifact, explaining their importance	Chooses important elements of the artifact, but explanation is cursory	Does not choose important elements of the artifact, explaining their importance	9.5
Purpose of the Artifact	Meets "Proficient" criteria and connection between purpose and success in communicating purpose demonstrates insight into what makes communication successful	States opinion on the purpose of the artifact, explaining whether the purpose is successfully communicated	States opinion on the purpose of the artifact, explaining whether the purpose is successfully expressed, but is over-generalized	Does not state opinion on the purpose of the artifact	9.5

Southern New Hampshire University

Reflection of Culture	Meets “Proficient” criteria and choice of cultural aspects demonstrates an insightful awareness of how expression and culture interrelate	Discusses how the artifact reflects the culture in which it exists, addressing specific, relevant cultural aspects	Discusses how the artifact reflects the culture in which it exists, addressing specific, relevant cultural aspects, but is over-generalized or has inaccuracies	Does not discuss how the artifact reflects the culture in which it exists	9.5
Impacts of the Artifact	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates an insightful awareness of how expression, creator, and culture interrelate	Uses the artifact to discuss how acts of creative expression impact and are impacted by the people and situations that surround it	Discusses the possible reciprocal impacts of the artifact on both the creator and the artifact’s cultural context but is over-generalized or has inaccuracies	Does not discuss the possible reciprocal impacts of the artifact on both the creator and the artifact’s cultural context	9.5
Pose Questions: Culture and Expression	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates a complex grasp of the interrelationship between human culture and expression	Poses questions regarding the relationship between human culture and expression	Poses questions regarding the relationship between human culture and expression, but questions are illogical or lack depth of thought	Does not pose questions regarding the relationship between human culture and expression	9.5
Pose Questions: Personal Assumptions	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates a complex grasp of why people express in this manner	Poses questions regarding personal assumptions about artifacts of this sort and why they exist	Poses questions regarding personal assumptions about artifacts of this sort and why they exist, but questions are illogical or lack depth of thought	Does not pose questions regarding personal assumptions about artifacts of this sort and why they exist	9.5
Pose Questions: Your Values	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates a complex grasp of the interrelationship of values and expression	Poses questions regarding the reciprocal relationship between how values shape and are shaped by forms of human expression	Poses questions regarding the reciprocal relationship between how values shape and are shaped by forms of human expression questions, but questions are illogical or lack depth of thought	Does not pose questions regarding the reciprocal relationship between how values shape and are shaped by forms of human expression	9.5
Pose Questions: Intent/Interpretation	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates a complex grasp of the interrelationship between possible intent and interpretation	Poses questions regarding the relationship between the possible intent of the creator and its interpretation	Poses questions regarding the relationship between the possible intent of the creator and its interpretation but is cursory	Does not pose questions regarding the relationship between the possible intent of the creator and its interpretation	9.5
Answering the Questions	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates insight into possible approaches and sources	Speculates on how to go about answering the questions	Speculates on how to go about answering the questions but is cursory or has inaccuracies	Does not speculate on how to go about answering the questions	9.5

Southern New Hampshire University

Articulation of Response	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	5
Total					100%