Post-Visit Activity

Investigating the Past: What Art Can Tell Us

Your Name _____________________________________________________________

WRITING ASSIGNMENT

You will use your research, experiences, and notes from your visit to the Getty Villa to write a historical story. Before you begin writing, do the following exercise (Part I) to prepare.

PART 1

I. SELECT ONE object that fascinated you the most at the Getty Villa:

________________________________________________________________________

II. NAME five people who may have interacted with, created, or influenced the use of this object throughout history.

1. ________________________________________________________________
2. ________________________________________________________________
3. ________________________________________________________________
4. ________________________________________________________________
5. ________________________________________________________________

III. SELECT ONE of the people you listed:

________________________________________________________________________
You will write your historical story from the point-of-view of the person who interacted with the object you selected. (You may also choose to write from the point-of-view of the object itself.)

IV. **List** the following information:

Name of person:
________________________________________________________________________________________________

Name and description of object:
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

Object’s place of origin:
________________________________________________________________________________________________

Setting of your story:
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

Voice (Whose story is it? What does the voice sound like?):
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
V. What **SPECIAL QUALITY** or **CHARACTERISTIC** does your main character have?  
(Remember, your main character can be the person or the object itself.)

________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

VI. What **ROLE** does the object play in the story?

________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

VII. What is **REVEALED** by the main character (person or object) that no one else would know?

________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
VIII. What other **DETAILS** will you add to the story?

________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

IX. **WRITE** the first sentence of your story below. It should “hook” your readers or listeners, and allow them to see the object in a “new way.”

________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

**PART 2**

Now, **WRITE** a one- to two-page story. Be creative. You are telling the story as if you were that person or object (the main character), so put yourself in the place of the person or object, and think how you would feel or respond. Use the type of words the character might use. Stay true to the voice of your character and your object’s history.