

Anthropology 390
MUSEUM VISIT

DUE: Friday, November 4, 2005

Purpose: To give students experience seeing real artifacts and other remains from an ancient civilization and evaluating how well these materials are being used to educate the public about the past

What to do: 1) visit a museum that has archaeological materials from an ancient civilization on display. The best nearby archaeology museum is the University of Pennsylvania's University Museum (see attached map). Other possibilities are the Baltimore Museum of Art, the National Museum of Natural History (in Washington D.C.), and the American Museum of Natural History and the Metropolitan Museum (both in New York).

2) tour an exhibit of archaeological materials from an ancient civilization

3) make observations about the exhibit and how well it does its job of communicating information about an ancient civilization to the public

What to turn in: a several page write-up that thoroughly addresses the following points:

1) introduction with statement of purpose, identification of your museum, when you visited it, the exhibit you evaluated, and the organization of the rest of your paper

2) description of the exhibit you evaluated (layout, what's on display, how its displayed, etc.). Be sure to indicate what aspects of the ancient civilization are emphasized

3) how well does your exhibit seem to engage the other people visiting it?

4) what is good about your exhibit in terms of educating the public about an ancient civilization?

5) what is bad about your exhibit in terms of educating the public about an ancient civilization?

6) if you were to improve your exhibit so that it better educated the public about an ancient civilization, how would you modify it? be creative, use your imagination here, present your ideas in detail!!

This assignment is worth 50 points. Your paper should be type written double spaced with normal type size and normal margins. The pages should be stapled together. Three points will be deducted from papers that are not stapled. No covers or extra blank pages should be attached to the write-up; but students are encouraged to add diagrams, etc to supplement their discussions for improvement in part 6. Penalty points will be deducted for late papers (see syllabus). Students are encouraged to visit the Writing Center (Room 16 Memorial Hall) for writing assistance. "A" grades will be given only to those papers that address each of the required sections thoroughly and well, that show creativity in section 6, and that are well written. One grade notch will be deducted for each section left out. One-half grade notch will be deducted for unpolished writing.