

SAMPLE–SHORT PAPER 2: OUTLINE

Working Thesis:

subject → In *House of Fire*, Rosenquist depicted everyday objects – groceries, an open window, and lipsticks – in precarious situations to comment on the dangers of succumbing to the idea of the modern American Dream.

arguments →

claim →



Figure 1. James Rosenquist, *House of Fire*, 1981. Oil on canvas, 78 x 198 in. (198.1 x 502.9 cm), The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Body paragraphs' main ideas:

persuasive paragraphs

- Body Paragraph 1: descriptive
- Body Paragraph 2: groceries
- Body Paragraph 3: open window
- Body Paragraph 4: lipsticks

Sample persuasive body paragraph

topic sentence → In the representation of groceries within *House of Fire*, Rosenquist suggested the impending danger of yielding to the ideal American Dream. Figure 1, represents the quintessential depiction of groceries – bread, eggs, and vegetables inside a brown paper bag – hang upside down, shown the moment before they fall. Rosenquist pointed out that the groceries “threaten to drop like bombs.”¹ He concluded that “aggression infiltrates the domestic sphere.”² As a result of this precariousness, the groceries invoke anxiety within the audience, as viewers wait for an impossible conclusion of the groceries crashing down. Through this expectation of a violent end, it appears that the artist challenged the common assumption that groceries symbolize peaceful domesticity; instead, he insinuated that the idea of standard domesticity in itself is dangerous. Therefore, the bag of groceries seen in *House of Fire* serves as a warning of the doom that awaits those that submit to the idea of the American Dream.

evidence →

analysis →

concluding sentence →

footnotes

¹ “James Rosenquist Biography, Art, and Analysis of Works,” The Art Story, 2017, accessed October 29, 2017, <http://www.theartstory.org/artist-rosenquist-james-artworks.htm>.

² Ibid.

Annotated Bibliography

Holt, Jennifer. "The Ideal Woman." Master's thesis, California State University, Stanislaus. Accessed October 29, 2017. <https://www.csustan.edu/sites/default/files/honors/documents/journals/soundings/Holt.pdf>.

In this thesis, Holt discusses the notion of the "ideal woman" in the 1950s, including their expectations as make-up wearing grocery shoppers. This paper would be used as a source in my essay to demonstrate the implication of groceries and lipstick on the feminine representation in pop culture.

Kimmelman, Michael. "Art Review: Mixing Catchy Pop Images to Make Haiku Writ Large." *The New York Times*, October 17, 2003. Accessed October 29, 2017. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/17/arts/art-review-mixing-catchy-pop-images-to-make-haiku-writ-large.html>

This article reviews Rosenquist's works and their effect on the modern art scene. In this article, the objects within *House of Fire* are discussed and analyzed in relation to the piece's message, which would be helpful in this essay.

Milhem, Arianne. "Subject Matters: Portrayals of Women in Art." *The Huffington Post*. February 18, 2015. Accessed October 29, 2017. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/arianne-milhem/subject-matters-portrayal_b_6672420.html.

In this article, Milhem comments on the portrayal of women in pop art, specifically as the housewives of the 1950s. As Rosenquist is classified as a pop artist, this commentary of the manifestation of women in pop art both pertains to his art and my analysis of *House of Fire*.

Paul, Stella. "20Th-Century Art: A Resource For Educators." New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1999.

Paul analyzes Rosenquist's *House of Fire* in both the general sense and in regards to the symbols found in the piece, from which she infers meaning, in her book *20th-century art: a resource for educators*. She asserts that the objects found in the piece relate to American practices and ideals, which directly correlates to my thesis about *House of Fire*.

Russell, John. "Art: A Good Way to Look at French Old Masters." *The New York Times*, March 26, 1982. Accessed October 29, 2017. <http://www.nytimes.com/1982/03/26/arts/art-a-good-way-to-look-at-french-old-masters.html>

In this article, Russell describes the visual elements within *House of Fire*, and precedes to briefly interpret their meaning. This examination would be helpful in the execution of this paper, and the arguments within it.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, j.e. The Met Museum. "House of Fire." Accessed October 29, 2017. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/482613>

This website, sponsored by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, provides background about Rosenquist's piece. This source would be used as a source of general information about *House of Fire* as well as source of additional references.

The Art Story. "James Rosenquist Biography, Art, and Analysis of Works." 2017 Accessed October 29, 2017. <http://www.theartstory.org/artist-rosenquist-james-artworks.htm>

This source comments on James Rosenquist's life and some of his most famous pieces. In regards to the essay, I would use this as a source of background information and also as evidence of my argument, as the website also provides an analysis of *House of Fire*.

EXPLANATION

Iconography

Iconography is a method that focuses on content (the meaning of the subject matter) rather than on its form. It interprets the function and purpose of the selected artwork (such as the meanings of motifs, signs, and symbols used in the work). Erwin Panofsky championed the method and devised three stages of its application:

- describing the work of art using formal elements
- identifying the described elements using sources (usually texts)
- interpreting the symbolism of identified elements using more sources

Thesis statement

A thesis statement:

- Presents your opinion [claim] on a subject [a work of art] and lists your arguments[developed in the body of your essay] to support your claim.
- Justifies discussion
- Is located at the end of introductory paragraph

The claim can be influenced by a particular idea, theory, or feeling. For more information, log into CCNY Libraries/ LibGuides /ART 21000 Writing about Art / Databases / Gale Virtual Reference Library.

Persuasive Paragraph

A persuasive paragraph is a block of sentences that develops only one idea. Each persuasive body paragraph in your essay should focus on a detail or a visual element seen in the work of art.

A TOPIC SENTENCE clearly communicates the main idea of the paragraph. EVIDENCE refers to factual information relevant to the paragraph's main idea. It must be cited. ANALYSIS explains why the above-mentioned evidence is relevant in the context of your thesis. A CONCLUDING SENTENCE states your point about the idea you are developing in the paragraph and connects it to the thesis.

Research

You should examine the Metropolitan Museum of Art's website. You should also search for information using the CCNY library databases including CUNY+, JSTOR, Art Full Text, etc. You may also search through Google Scholar. Your sources should be compiled into a bibliography that should be annotated.