

**Dr. John Talbird**  
**EN 102: Formal Writing Assignment**

Your assignment should be approximately 15 pages, typed, in 12-point font, with 1 to 1.5-inch margins, and double-spaced. In this class, and all Humanities classes (language, philosophy, religious studies courses, art history, etc.) you must cite all sources not your own using MLA (Modern Language Association) citation style (see Hacker's *A Pocket Style Manual* or some other style reference book for citation directions) **even if** your only source is our class reading. Cite quotes or substance references **within** your paper using parenthetical citations. Examples:

“I said your marriage was on the rocks.” (Vonnegut 241)

Marilee blithely tells her Italian servant that Rabo's marriage is suffering (Vonnegut 24).

Also, complete citation information should be listed on a separate “works cited” sheet—again, even if your own citation is out of our reading. Example:

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Bluebeard*. New York: Dial, 2006.

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### **Ekphrastic Collection**

The major writing assignment this semester will be to write an ekphrastic collection, a collection of writings about, or inspired by, art. Although ekphrastic writing is generally about, or in response to, visual art, for the purpose of this assignment I'll allow you to interpret “art” more loosely. In fact, a goal of this writing assignment, and this semester, will be to come to some type of understanding about what that word “art” really means.

Every text in your collection must respond to, or be about, a specific artwork (each art work listed in your annotated bibliography). Also your collection must meet the following criteria:

- 1) It will be fifteen pages in length (not including foreword, afterword, and annotated bibliography).
- 2) At least three **different** genres will be represented. One of those genres **must** be an art show review from a gallery in Manhattan. The show card (usually postcard-sized with an image of the artist's work) must be attached to your collection (either taped or pasted to one of the pages) to prove that you were actually there. You can find an extensive list of NYC art galleries at the following webpage: [http://art-collecting.com/galleries\\_ny.htm](http://art-collecting.com/galleries_ny.htm)
- 3) A cover, title, foreword, afterword, and annotated bibliography will be included.

**Foreword:**

Your foreword is an opportunity for you to help your readers read your writing. It is a way of helping us better “get” what you’re trying to do with your work. You should use this space to show how each writing is responding to a specific artwork. It is also a space where you should reflect on what you’ve been doing and learning in the course and also set some goals for later in the course and beyond.

**Afterword:**

You will use this space to reflect on what you’ve learned in the course and, more specifically, what you’ve learned by writing, revising, and compiling this collection of writing.

**Annotated Bibliography:**

You must include a bibliography with annotations of at least six sources with your collection. You must list every artwork that your collection responds to. In addition, you should list any other works which have helped you write about these works. At least one of these sources must be a book and at least one an article (**not** a website).

**Please note: I will not accept your collection without a foreword, afterword, and annotated bibliography.**