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# Introduction to Art (ART 150) City as Classroom Project Report

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## Siobhan Conaty, Associate Professor, Art History

### Course Description

ART 150 – Introduction to Art

This class serves as an introduction to the history of art and sharpens visual and analytic skills. Within the weekly themes set out below we will learn about different art techniques and discern different ways of looking at and thinking about art. In addition, we will discuss various issues such as the question of beauty, interpretation and spirituality in art through outside readings, class discussions, and museum visits.

### Project Description

I will be actively involving my students in the city and region initiative by requiring them to visit two city museums (The Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts) with a project that focuses on the contribution and value of local Philadelphia artists and culture.

Students were required to select specific works of art to research, but they were also required to write about their response to whole experience; the trip downtown, getting around the city, the different locations, the other museum visitors, etc.

### Outcomes

The goal is for the students to experience two different cultural institutions, but equally important to the experience is that they will have to become familiar with different modes of transportation getting to the city.



### Lesson(s) Learned

From a faculty perspective: I worked with Heather McGee in the Philadelphia Center to organize this project. The students had a great resource for their trips and I had help putting the logistics of the project together.

From the students perspective: a) they learned about the Philadelphia Center on our campus b) they had to try different ways of getting into and around the city c) they experienced two important Philadelphia cultural institutes.

### Student Feedback

Student Evaluations: For the most part they were quite positive. Students commented on getting out of the classroom to learn, visiting the city (although some complained about the logistics of this part), and viewing artwork that they had been studying all semester.