Site Visit-First Draft Essay Instructions

For this essay, you will need to visit a religious site from a religious tradition that is **not your own** and write a report on it. This paper must have a thesis, as per the Gordon rule requirement. Remember, you will be revising this attempt, so make sure you get what you need to get done, and don’t worry about perfecting everything this attempt. First draft of essay 1 Site Visit is due Friday, Jan 31 at 11:59 pm, ET, and it is worth 10% of the final grade. You must submit at least 1000 of the minimum 1500 words, include your thesis, and a bulleted plan for any parts missing from your essay to receive full credit on the first draft. Make sure the paper is double spaced. I want to be able to see how you are developing your ideas and how you are supporting your thesis. **REMEMBER: BE PITHY. DON’T WRITE FILLER YOU’RE IN COLLEGE.**

The paper should begin with your first paragraph introducing the religious tradition you chose, and the site you visited. Be specific about the tradition by specifying both the religion and the sect or branch you have visited. Your first paragraph must end with your thesis. A thesis is an argument or a statement that you will prove throughout your essay. This essay’s thesis is what the central idea/principle of the religious tradition you visited was, and how it was explained/valued during your site visit. This is the spine of your paper, so make sure you are both academic and contextual.

I’ll give you an example so you’re not lost. Let’s say you went to the Holy Temple of Cafecito, in Westchester. From your research, and conversations with congregants you know that this religious tradition’s central idea or principle is that Cafecito is supreme over the cosmos. You go and you see that they begin the service burning old Cafecito, making new Cafecito, you listen to the lecture the Cafecito priest gives, and his main point is about the greatness of Cafecito, then you go up and dip bread in Cafecito-this causes everyone to cry tears of joy and get hyper. The service ends, you look around and you’re in a percolator shaped room/building. You ask about what people who practice this religion do during the week, someone tells you ‘discuss Cafecito.’ Clearly the central principle or idea of this religious tradition is about the supremacy and greatness of Cafecito. Your thesis should state that, and the following sentence should explain how you will support that idea.

A good thesis would be, “This paper will argue that the central idea of the Holy Temple of Cafecito is the supremacy, greatness, and holiness of Cafecito.” The next sentence should explain how you will show that through the paper in light of your research and experience. “This paper will argue this by first explaining what the tradition’s fundamental beliefs about Cafecito are, then, the paper will describe the centrality of Cafecito to the liturgy and aesthetic of their gatherings, finally, this paper will describe how Cafecito impacts the day to day lives of the congregants.” You must have at least 3 body points, just like my example did.

The body of the paper will then support your thesis following the track you laid out in the final sentence of the first paragraph. Remember, you are to be academic about this so there is no space for your opinions. Save your opinions for our class discussion. Describe the religious tradition as they’d describe themselves to the best of your abilities. Support your thesis with every paragraph in the body of your essay. Base your ideas in written research and remember to cite anything you pull out of a book, a video, or an interview using Chicago style footnotes. You must have at least 5 citations in your body, 4 of which must come from scholarly sources. Do not use long quotations to boost wordcount.

The paper must have a conclusion paragraph that sums up everything you wrote. Restate your thesis, and how you’ve proven it throughout the paper. Take a couple of sentences to discuss further research that could be done at your selected religious site to finish the paper. List your references in a bibliography on a final page in alphabetical order.

**Rubric:**

In Canvas. It’s simpler for all of us that way. However, I also included it here so that you do not have to bounce back and forth. When professors don’t do this it’s a pain for me so I was considerate.

“Normally if given a choice between doing something and nothing, I chose to do nothing. But I will do something if it helps someone else to do nothing. I'd work all night if it meant nothing got done.” -Ron Swanson

Below is what I will assess your paper with. Write to meet these goals. Remember, if you don’t have at least 1,000 words the highest grade you can possibly get even after the revision is a 90. This isn’t to hurt you, it’s to help you stay on top of your assignments.

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| **Thesis & Plan of Support**  **0-35 points** | Thesis & plan is clear, pithy, historically & contextually accurate.  35 | Thesis/Plan is less than clear, not precisely historically & contextually accurate, or pithy-but understandable.  26-34 | Thesis/Plan is unclear, not historically or contextually accurate, or not pithy.  10-25 | Only included one or the other and it’s not good.  5-9 | You did not include anything  0-4 |  |
| **Body/**  **Supporting Paragraphs**  **0-35 points** | You have 3 supporting points. They clearly support your thesis. You do not use long quotations to boost wordcount.  35 | You have 3 supporting points. They don’t or only kind of clearly support your thesis.  26-34 | You have 2 supporting points. They don’t or only kind of support your thesis.  10-25 | You only included one supporting point. Or, your points don’t support your thesis.  5-9 | You did not include anything  0-4 |  |
| **Conclusion**  **0-10 points** | You restate the thesis and how you got there. Future research proposed is compelling.  10 | You restate the thesis. Future research is proposed.  7-9 | You only do one or the other.  4-6 | You only do one and it’s not good.  1-3 | You did not include anything  0-4 |  |
| **Grammar, Spelling, Double spaced**  **0-10 points** | Superb. Not many errors. Double Spaced.  10 | Average  7-9 | Below Average  4-6 | Poor.  1-3 | You did not include anything  0 |  |
| **Chicago Style**  **Footnote Citations. Bibliography**  **0-10 points** | 5 Properly cited references. Bibliography alphabetized.  10 | 5 Mostly proper cited references.  Bibliography alphabetized.  7-9 | 3-4 Mostly proper cited references.  Bibliography alphabetized.  4-6 | 1-2 improperly cited references.  Bibliography alphabetized.  1-3 | You did not include anything  0 |  |