

## Exhibit/Site Review 1

Due: **Tuesday, February 7**

Follow essay and paper guidelines: (Double space, use 12 point New Times Roman font, 1 inch margins.) Make sure your work follows standard rules of communicating clearly and concisely, with proper grammatical construction. If you use outside sources, cite them properly or face the repercussions of plagiarism accusation as discussed below in Policies and Procedures. Essays should be turned in on D2L in the dropbox.

Visit a public history site or and write up a report of at least 2-3 pages with these essential elements. You should relate the site to some of the major themes we are developing in this course.

Think about these questions as you visit, and answer them in your essay.

- Tell me the site location and date you visited.
- What is the mission statement of the site? (this can be found on their website or posted in the museum) - is it obvious and does the site meet its mission?
- What are the major themes of this site? What is the exhibit's main historical point, if any?
- What evidence do the curators use? (everyday objects, photographs, paintings, other art objects, oral histories)
- How does this site present information to visitors and the public?
- Is that information factual/accurate?
- Does the site address accessibility issues for people with disabilities?
- Are physical and learning disabilities addressed at all?
- Who is the audience at this site?
- How does the site interact with the public? Are there guides, interpreters, written material?  
How effective is that interaction?
- In what ways is this exhibit successful? In what ways does this exhibit fail as history?
- Does it present a nuanced and balanced historical account?
- What did you like about the exhibit? Why did you like those things?
- What didn't you like about the exhibit? Why didn't you like those things?
- Was there a lot of material?
- Was the lighting good? Were things in glass cases with a lot of glare and hard to see?
- Do you think you learned anything?
- Was it worth the entrance price?
- Do you recommend that others visit this exhibit?
- Do you think your friends or relatives might enjoy it?
- What would you do differently had you been in charge and why?

A few tips:

- Analyze, do not summarize. The summary of what you saw should be condensed to a paragraph — just enough to allow the reader to understand what the exhibition or site was all about.
- Read sample reviews in the *Journal of American History* or *The Public Historian*.
- Do not mention every artifact or tidbit of information that was conveyed to you. Be selective. Talk about highlights and lowlights.
- Provide concrete evidence to support your argument and assertions.
- Do not feel that you have to organize your paper to mimic the layout of the exhibition or tour.