

A&D Personal Study Plan

Name: EXAMPLE

Select subject:

ART

Define the objective or focus of the essay:

The focus of my essay is going to be upon the use of artificial light in contemporary sculpture, and the artist at the centre of this is Dan Flavin. I am going to be looking mainly at his fluorescent light tubes and sculptures although I will briefly look at his earlier paper works if necessary to obtain context. I want to explore possible links with other contemporary artists through both aesthetic and conceptual similarities. Flavin often describes his work as light 'situations' rather than installations and I want to explore this idea.

The relationship between the practical work and the focus of the study:

The growth of more contemporary sculptural ideas such as installations and the 'readymade' allowed light, both artificial and natural to become a prominent feature in many artist's work.

'One might not think of light as a matter of fact, but I do. And it is, as I have said, as plain and open and direct an art as ever you will find' Dan Flavin

My project is about light. I like the idea of light as a transient and changing element. As for this tying into my practical project, well I am also interested in removing the light from its functional context and placing it into a more aesthetic one.

I will probably begin by drawing a functional symbol of light, like a light bulb. I will then explore other elements of light through photography.

As well as the aesthetics, I like the spatial aspects of Flavin's work, I like its territorial nature, and this could be an area for me to explore in my practical work. For my development work I want to investigate the relationship of light to it's surroundings and about the space it creates, probably moving towards installation.

Sources to be used:

Books (at least THREE):

1. Unmonumental: The Object in the 21st Century
2. Sculpture Today, Judith Collins, London: Phaidon Press
3. Dan Flavin: A retrospective, Michael Govan and Tiffany Bell
4. Dan Flavin . Icons, Corinna Thierolf and Johannes Vogt
5. Dan Flavin: New Light, several writers, edited by Jeffery Weiss

Websites:

- www.nga.gov
- www.helium.com/items/772388-the-use-of-light-in-modern-sculpture
- www.diabeacon.org/ltproj/flavbrid

Other sources:

- Dan Flavin. Magazine article from; Artforum international. 12/1/1995
- Review (from issue 63) New York Magazine NEW 'Dan Flavin's 1964 breakout show in meticulous reproduction' 2008 article by Jerry Saltz
- Tubular belles By Mick Brown 14 January 2006 in The Telegraph

List the pieces of work that you will analyse in the study. Identify reasons for choosing these particular pieces and points that may be highlighted in the analysis. Mark the primary source/s with *

Name of piece:

Dan Flavin
*Untitled (Corner Piece)
Mixed Media
TATE GALLERY LIVERPOOL

Reasons for choice/Points to be raised:

This will be the main piece to be analysed. When I view this piece I'm going to be noting down my own thoughts and reactions of others. Something that is often said about Flavin's work is that you can't really document it in photos. By viewing this piece in person I will be able to fully understand what is meant by that.
'In 1963 Dan Flavin mounted a standard eight foot fluorescent light tube directly onto the wall of his studio with metal brackets. His artistic output would subsequently be defined by this simple but significant gesture' Tate Gallery

1. Icons Series:

Icon 1 (the heart) (to the light of Sean McGovern which blesses everyone), 1961-62.

Icon 2 (the mystery) (to John Reeves), 1961

Icon 4 (the pure land) (to David John Flavin, 1933-1962), 1962-69

Icon 5 (Coran's Broadway Flesh), 1962

Icon 7 (via crucis), 1962-64

Icon 8 (the dead nigger's icon) (to blind lemon Jefferson), 1962-1963

Flavin often describes his work as 'light situations'

His work can appear quite similar so I shall be looking at roughly the same themes and ideas for all of them.

I will be looking at the positioning of the tubes, the effect the light has on the surroundings, and how this impacts on the place which it is in.

As Flavin's work is so spacial, I'll also be analysing the idea that the same light tubes in the same positioning but in two different places could potentially be called two different works.

2. The diagonal of May 25, 1963 (to Constantin Brancusi), 1963

I want to look at the reactions to the work – as it's contemporary sculpture I am sure that there will be a lot of debate about it. I'll look at my own reactions to the work and try to challenge my own opinions on what makes 'art'.

SARAH LUCAS

1. 'Destiny' 2000

2. 'How was it for you?' 2000

3. 'The year of the rooster' 2005

Lucas' work is more sculptural and, isn't purely about the light. I'm going to first be looking at the relationship between the light in her work and the other objects she has chosen, exploring the effect it has on the work itself. Does it just enhance it, or, like Flavin's, is it the centre of the work? I'm going to be comparing it to Flavin's in the sense that he uses the light as a material itself, whereas Lucas may use the light tube as a shape. In essence, is Lucas' work more about the lines that are created rather than experimenting with the light as a material?

Visit/s made/to be made:

Tate Gallery, Liverpool

Possible conclusion/s to the study:

The end objective is to be able to link the work of Flavin with more current artists such as Sarah Lucas and Martin Boyce, through both aesthetic and conceptual similarities.

I want to explore and try to assess the affect and influence his lightworks may have had on the art world of sculpture and installation.