

The Assignment Scaffolding (total project weight: 35% of semester grade)

- 1. Students provided documentation for three possible objects to research from eBay with a cover letter and three bibliographic entries. (5%)
- 2. After receiving approval for one of the three, they submitted a bibliography with six entries from several types of sources. (10%)
- 3. Students wrote a three-page formal analysis essay regarding their selected eBay work. (20%)
- 4. Students researched museums and galleries, chose one, and wrote a short report explaining the type of institution it was, its audience and programming, its mission statement, and if there were similar works to the eBay object in their collection to determine if it would be a good 'fit' for their needs. I gave them a graphic organizer onto which they could take notes before writing up their description. (10%)
- 5. Students wrote a comparative analysis paper to help evaluate their chosen eBay works; they needed two comparable works, one each from a museum and an auction house, in order to write the paper. (20%)
- 6. Reading about how art dealers and auctioneers evaluate the monetary value of art works, they filled out a data sheet comparing the eBay work with the two works analyzed in step 5. At the same time they read about collecting ethics and international law and determined if their eBay work would be ethical to accept. (10%)
- 7. Finally, each student submitted a portfolio including a (fictive) cover letter to the curator or other professional at their target museum or gallery and an argumentative essay for or against the acquisition that drew on all of the research in the prior steps. The supporting documents were added as appendices in the portfolio. (25%)