

Examples of Ethics Violations in Works of Art

Objectives of the assignment

1. Students will examine artworks at the Spencer Museum of Art for various ethical violations.
2. Students will determine and explain their reasoning for why/how an image represents each violation.
3. Students will work in small groups to reach a consensus and present a clear argument.

Specifics of the assignment

1) Students will visit the museum during a regular class period. In small groups, they will select an artwork that violates each of the following levels of ethics:

1. Personal morality
2. Organizational ethics
3. Professional ethics
4. Social ethics

2) Groups must select a different artwork for each category and reach a consensus on each selection. Therefore, think creatively, respectfully engage with your fellow group members, and consider everyone's perspective when interpreting the ethical violations present in various works of art.

3) For each category, the group should describe the artwork and discuss in the space provided why they selected each artwork as a violation of the ethical category.

Works of art associated with the assignment

The works of art selected for this assignment are suggestions based on previous class visits. It is possible that some objects may not be on view in a given semester. With sufficient advance notice, it is possible that objects that are not on view may be able to be displayed in the Stephen H. Goddard Study Center or Jack & Lavon Brosseau Center for Learning. Contact Kate Meyer (kmm0045@ku.edu) for availability and scheduling of the Study Center and Center for Learning.

You can also search the Spencer Museum of Art website (www.spencerart.ku.edu) for works that are currently on view by clicking on Art>Collection>Search, and then clicking on Collection at the top left to access the advanced search tool. The last text box gives you the option to search only for works on view. For additional help selecting works of art on view for your class visit, contact Celka Straughn, the Andrew W. Mellon Director of Public Practice, Education, and Research, at straughn@ku.edu, or the Academic Coordinator at academic@ku.edu.

Adapting the assignment

While this assignment is designed as a guided class visit in the galleries, it can also be adapted as:

- ✓ a guided class visit
- ✓ independent student work
- ✓ a long-term project
- ☐ a multi-visit assignment

And could take place in:

- ✓ the Stephen H. Goddard Study Center
- ✓ the Jack & Lavon Brosseau Center for Learning
- ✓ a special exhibition
- ✓ the galleries

Personal Morality

Artwork title _____

Artist _____

Organizational Ethics

Artwork title _____

Artist _____

Professional Ethics

Artwork title _____

Artist _____

Social Ethics

Artwork title _____

Artist _____