

# Chicago Cultural Center

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**Location:** 78 E. Washington St. Chicago, IL 60602

**Admission Rates and Hours:**

[http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp\\_info/chicago\\_culturalcenter-generalinformation.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/chicago_culturalcenter-generalinformation.html)

- As of October 2013, admission is free every day that the building is open
- Keep in mind that exhibitions are subject to change at the discretion of the curators.

## Questions for the exterior

1. Does this building look like another building in the city that you're familiar with?

If so, why do you think that is the case?

2. Examine the exterior of the Chicago Cultural Center. What architectural influences do you observe in the exterior? Where?

What variation do you notice when comparing the North and South sides of the building?

3. Ancient Greek temple architecture tended to be built with sides that followed an  $x : 2x+1$  ratio. If a short side of the temple had a width of six units, calculate how many units long the other side would be:

Demonstrate use of appropriate calculations to determine whether that ratio is evident in the exterior of the Chicago Cultural Center.

If so, where do you see evidence of that ratio? If not, how do you know?  
Explain the steps you took to answer this question.

## Questions for the interior

4. Assemble three observations regarding pieces of physical evidence you find on the exterior and interior of the building that convey information about this building's previous function(s).

Take photographs and describe each of the three pieces of evidence:

Based on the evidence you found, develop an argument about its prior function.

5. Of the works you saw in these galleries today, which was your favorite, and why?

Identify the artist name, title, and date:

What did you like about this work of art? How did it make you feel, and what did it make you think or wonder? Did the artist of this work do anything that you found particularly new or innovative?

6. Of the works you saw in these galleries today, which was most difficult to understand or appreciate, and why?

Identify the artist name, title, and date:

7. What is your definition of “art”? Based on your definition, did any of the pieces you saw today fail to meet your criteria?

8. Did you feel like you got more out of just looking at objects, reading text about them (either on the label next to the object or elsewhere on the walls), or a combination? Why?

How can you adapt your study routine and approach to normal class work to take advantage of what you learned about your learning style and preferences today?

### **Questions to begin during your field trip and continue working on after you leave** (it may help to take photographs—without flash—if photography is allowed in the gallery)

9. Imagine that you are a figure (human, animal, god—be creative!) in one of the works of art located in the galleries. Write a journal entry (at least 7 complete sentences) describing a day in your life.

In it, describe what you think, feel, and also what your senses (sight, sound, taste, smell, touch) convey to you.

After you write your journal entry, underline at least two passages and explain how those passages are supported by the details you observe in the work of art or by what you know about the historical context.

How would another figure in the artwork view your character’s life? What similarities and differences would you expect between your character’s self-concept and an outsider’s judgment of that figure?

10. Select a work of art that engages with a social issue. Identify the artist name, title, date:

What social issue is depicted in or served as inspiration for this artwork?

Based on what you see, what do you think the artist thinks and feels about this social issue?

Is the social issue made explicit and obvious, or is it alluded to in a subtle way?

Is this a social issue that you were already familiar with, or is it new to you?

What is a social issue that is important to you?

What is one step you could take this week to engage in a positive way with this issue?