

# Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

---

**Location:** 220 E. Chicago Ave. Chicago, IL 60611

**Admission Rates and Hours:** <http://www.mcachicago.org/>

- As of October 2013, Tuesdays are free to Illinois residents. On other days when the museum is open, it's \$12 suggested (not mandatory) admission price for adults.
- Keep in mind that exhibitions are subject to change at the discretion of the curators.

## Questions for the exterior

1. Describe the exterior of the building. What shapes and textures do you notice, and how are they arranged? Employ vocabulary from class discussions and/or your textbook.

Does the building fit in its surroundings? If so, how? If not, why not?

## Questions for the interior

2. Describe the interior of the building. How is space arranged? What colors dominate? Employ vocabulary from class discussions and/or your textbook.
3. Select one work of art to spend 10 minutes looking at in detail.

Describe your initial reaction to the work of art (What did you think and feel?):

Write down as many observations as you can about the formal elements (color, shape, line, texture, composition, etc.) as well as about any content/subject matter (objects, figures, etc.). Employ vocabulary from class discussions.

Revise your response to the work after spending 10 minutes observing it closely (What do you think and feel about it now?):

4. 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?

5. 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:

6. 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), watching one of the films or listening to audio segments, 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?

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. If you were asked to curate an exhibit for this cultural institution, what would you recommend and why?

### **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 galleries)

9. Select a work of art that engages with a social issue.

Identify the artist name, title, and 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?