Memorial Analysis Handout

Key Vocabulary

_Horticulture:_ The art of garden management; giving thought to the meaning behind the use of flowers, hedges, trees, and other plants and their use in a given place.

_Landscape Design:_ Giving thought to improving the appearance of a piece of land by changing its contours, adding ornamental features, or planting trees and shrubs.

_Architectural Design:_ The art and science of designing buildings and (some) non-building structures beyond function to include symbolic meaning.

_Text:_ Printed or written words that have meaning.

_Art:_ A two-dimensional or three-dimensional item that is made to be beautiful or to express an idea, mood, or feeling.

_Perspective:_ The technique used to represent three-dimensional objects on a two-dimensional surface in a way that looks natural and realistic; an illusion of space and depth on a flat surface.

Directions: Use the Photograph Collection of the World War II Memorial or Epinal American Cemetery to answer the following questions. Discuss the questions in your group and summarize the responses below.

_Horticulture/Landscape Design_

1. What kind of habitat or surrounding does this memorial have? What types of trees can you see? Can you see grass? If so, is it living?
Memorial Analysis cont.

Horticulture/Landscape Design cont.

2. What plant colors can you see? Do you notice a theme with the colors?

3. What types of flowers are in this memorial? What about bushes or hedges?

4. What do you notice about the contours of the land? Is it flat or not? Are there hills? Walkways? Is the landscape of the memorial connected to the human-made objects in the memorial? If so, how?

5. What parts of the environment just outside the memorial are visible from the memorial? Can you see other memorials or monuments? Can you see bodies of water? Mountains? Buildings or other objects?
Memorial Analysis cont.

Horticulture/Landscape Design cont.

6. Evaluate the use of plants, trees, and the landscape in this memorial. What mood do you feel from the use of this horticulture/landscape design? What do you think was the intent of the designer? What do you think was the purpose behind the use of particular flowers, trees, plants, changing of the land, etc.? How does the use of horticulture/landscape design memorialize sacrifice?

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Architectural Design Analysis

7. What human-made structures are in the memorial? Are there any buildings or other structures?

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8. What materials are used to construct the buildings? Are there multiple materials being used?

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Memorial Analysis cont.

Architectural Design Analysis cont.

9. What types of buildings are there? Chapels? Offices? Other?

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10. What colors do you see within the buildings? What geometric shapes are used? Do you notice a theme or a trend with these buildings?

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11. Does the memorial make use of any structures that employ any type of technology or are interactive in any way? If so, describe.

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12. Evaluate the use of buildings/structures in this memorial. What mood(s) do you feel from the architectural design? What do you think was the intent of the designer? What do you think was the purpose behind the use of particular shapes? The use of particular carved images within the human-made objects? How does the architectural design memorialize sacrifice?

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Memorial Analysis cont.

**Use of Text Analysis**


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14. How does the use of names, locations, military titles, and labels make you feel?

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15. How does the use of quotes, descriptions, religious references, or other text make you feel?

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16. How is the use of text on grave markers (if present) and on the Wall of the Missing (if present) different from the other ways text is used?

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Memorial Analysis cont.

Use of Text Analysis cont.

17. Other than the use of text for names, dates, locations, military titles, and labels, what messages do you receive from the text? Are there multiple messages? What do you notice about the visuals near particular text? Are they connected, and how? Is there any use of text that you do not understand? If so, what?

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18. Evaluate the use of text in this memorial. What mood(s) do you feel from the text? What do you think was the intent of the designer? What do you think was the purpose behind the use of quotes or descriptions? The use of specific names? What do you think was the purpose behind the location of text in this memorial? How does the use of text memorialize sacrifice?

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Art Analysis

19. What examples of artwork are visible? Are they two-dimensional or three-dimensional? Has there been an attempt to give depth to these objects so they appear to be three-dimensional? If so, what techniques do you see for this attempt? Are there multiple techniques being used?

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Memorial Analysis cont.

Art Analysis cont.

20. How do these artworks make you feel? Do they set a particular mood? If so, what mood?

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21. Is technology used to create or enhance the art? If so, what technology?

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22. Evaluate the use of art in this memorial. What mood(s) do you feel from the art? What do you think was the intent of the artist? What do you think was the purpose behind the art? Are there any two-dimensional visuals that do not use perspective? If so, why do you think perspective was not used? How does the art memorialize sacrifice?

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