A formal analysis is the fundamental form of writing about art. The goal is to examine a work of art and articulate how the visual elements of the piece (line, color, composition and style) work together. How do these artistic decisions effect the viewer? While a formal analysis is based on description of a work of art, it is important to remember that it should also be driven by a THESIS, your overall interpretation of the work of art. Each point of your analysis should relate to your thesis.

For this assignment I’d like you to select one of the images from the list below and go look at the work of art IN PERSON at the St. Louis Art Museum. Really LOOK at the piece, and describe what you see. For this paper, don’t worry about the iconography of the work, don’t interpret what you see, just describe it! All of the pieces are currently on display, the top 3 in the eighteenth-century galleries and the Titian in the Renaissance gallery.

Giambattista Tiepolo *The Crucifixion*

Pietro Longhi *Masked Party in a Courtyard*

Canaletto *An Island in the Lagoon with a Gateway and a Church*

Titian *Christ Shown to the People*