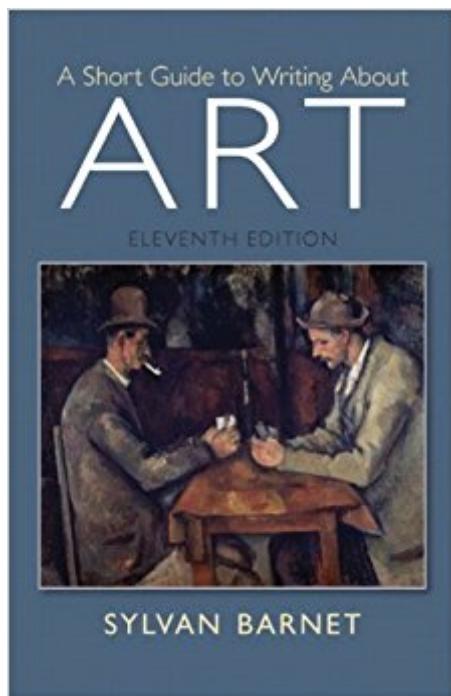


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# A Short Guide To Writing About Art (11th Edition)



## Synopsis

The best-selling guide to writing about art — Sylvan Barnet's *A Short Guide to Writing About Art* guides students through every aspect of writing about art. Students are shown how to analyze pictures (drawings, paintings, photographs), sculptures and architecture, and are prepared with the tools they need to present their ideas through effective writing. Coverage of essential writing assignments includes formal analysis, comparison, research paper, review of an exhibition, and essay examination. New to the 11th edition is a chapter on "Virtual Exhibitions: Writing Text Panels and Other Materials."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Extraordinarily useful and necessary for any class in art history!"  
— Johanna Movassat, San Jose State University  
A step-by-step guide, incorporating both theory and practice, to critically thinking and writing about art.  
— Janet Carpenter, City College of San Francisco  
"An extremely useful book for art history students at all levels of study."  
— Melissa Dabakis, Kenyon College  
"I find the text to be fundamental in teaching students to write. It is concise enough to cover in a course on a particular art historical topic without overtaking the topic itself. It is always my secondary text."  
— Rebecca Trittel, Savannah College of Art and Design  
"Excellent definitive source on writing about art for the advanced"

This was a good source during my time studying art history in college. I referred to it often but find I have no use for it now that I'm done with school. If this book is required for a class at your school, I would try renting it rather than purchasing it. It may come in handy for the short term but probably not for the long term.

This book really helped me write art analysis papers. There are example papers, questions to ask yourself when looking at art, etc. I'm glad I chose to pick up this suggested title--it wasn't mandatory for the class, but maybe it should've been.

terrific text! I would love to find the cousin that covers writing for Landscape Architecture. Until then, this is a superb guide.

Bought this book for my art history class and it is VERY informative. There are sample essays in the book and it tells you what you should and shouldn't write which was very helpful when I was writing my essays. Overall, definitely recommend if you want to write about art or are taking an art class that requires writing an essay.

I was surprised by how small the book was and the binding of the book. It's really floppy. The picture makes it look like a normal hard bound book. so i thought the 40-50\$ or whatever was warranted. but its a really small odd book that kind of looks home printed. whatever, it came when I needed it and was the right edition for the class.

Extremely pleased! Will definitely purchase from this seller again.

Barnet's Short Guide is an essential tool for pedagogy, useful to any high school teacher or professor teaching an introductory Art History course to students with little or no experience writing about art. As a teacher, it's been so long since I began writing about art that I don't remember the things that I struggled with, and what exactly put me on course to proper art historical writing. So, I purchased the latest edition of Barnet's guide, which I remembered was particularly helpful to me in high school (AP Art History), and rereading it has been like reacquainting myself with a long lost

friend who I didn't realize was so brilliant and articulate! If you are in doubt, simply read the 'Sample Critical Essay' and its analysis on pgs. 14-21. The sample essay is written around high school or junior college level, and provides numerous opportunities to point out successes in the argumentation and revisions that may be made. The explications of what an evaluation, analysis, and thesis statement are, which follow, are clear and concise - full of quotable phrases explaining the sometimes-difficult concepts to students in an approachable manner. At the end of the section to which I refer, there is 'a note on outlining', giving students guidance on how to lay out an outline before writing, and failing that, how to outline their essays after they have written them. The guidance given will facilitate students composition of strong topic sentences and rearrangement of paragraphs as necessary to construct a sound argument. I haven't had a chance to reread any of the other sections in the text, but the book has already merited its price. It's a soft-back of high-common printing quality (slightly glossy pages) that should prove durable enough (if the teacher doesn't opt instead to remove the binding in order to facilitate photocopying passages as I have done with Stokstad's text, another superior work surveying the history of art). Sylvan Barnet's Short Guide is an essential reference, and can prove a worthwhile supplementary book to require high school students to purchase, despite the over-pricing. For college students, possessing the manual is a must, and it will prove useful for the professor to require readings from sections of the text to be discussed in class. I'll be working with my students on writing with Barnet's aid next week, and you'd highly benefit from securing this book as well!

The book is good nice and small easy to carry around but it's written more like a chapter book there are a few places where they have "rules for writer" and short tips and bullet points that tells you what elements to talk about but overall for a short guide there's a lot of words that aren't very helpful

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