

EXEMPLAR ESSAY (6/6)

637 Words

In the 1300s, Petrarch, the “father of humanism,” found some of Cicero’s old writings and circulated them. This began the Renaissance, or “rebirth,” of classical (Greek and Roman) literature and art styles in Italy and even in Northern Europe. With the Renaissance came new art styles that focused on classical themes and linear perspective (making people and objects look 3D on a flat surface). In the 1400s and 1500s, Renaissance art styles were prevalent in Europe. However, in the 1600s, Baroque styles took center stage, with the rejection of symmetry and a preference for more emotion in art. This change from Renaissance art to Baroque art represented the greatest change in art in the period from 1450 to 1700 because art became less symmetrical and more emotional. However, there were some continuities, such as linear perspective and classical themes.

Renaissance art emphasized classical values of symmetry and balance while also having an appreciation for Roman styles. The Florence Cathedral Dome is a great example of Renaissance architecture because it was the first large dome constructed in Italy since Roman times. Renaissance art also showed Greek and Roman gods, such as in Botticelli’s *The Birth of Venus*, where Venus is nude in the center of the painting. This showed artists’ willingness to prefer classical styles (showing nudity) even when they interfered with Christian values (like modesty). There were pieces of Renaissance art that showed religious themes, such as the painting *Delivery of the Keys* in the Sistine Chapel. In this painting, Jesus is giving keys to Peter because He wanted him to be the first pope. The pope was a big patron of the arts during the Renaissance period, so some Renaissance art was used to elevate the status of the papacy. Raphael’s *The School of Athens*, one of the most famous paintings of the Renaissance, shows several Greek and Roman philosophers, with Plato and Aristotle walking together in the middle.

In the early 1500s, the Reformation started, which resulted in several wars and religious disputes. The Renaissance styles began to give way to more emotional styles because of this. Paintings of peaceful philosophers were not as sought after with Europe being in the middle of religious wars. The Catholic Reformation, which was the Catholic Church’s response to the Reformation, played a big role in the transition from the Renaissance style to the Baroque style. Many pieces of Baroque art glorified the Catholic religious experience.

Baroque art was more emotional than Renaissance art, less focused on symmetry, and more likely to glorify the Catholic religion. Caravaggio was a Baroque painter who produced several religious works, including Jesus being betrayed and crucified. Unlike Renaissance artists, who used muscular people with perfect bodies, Caravaggio used models who had more typical bodies. Bernini was a Baroque sculptor who used his talents to promote the Catholic religion. His *Ecstasy of St. Teresa*, with St. Teresa encountering an angel, showed an example of how the Catholic religious experience could be exciting.

Although there are plenty of differences in the Renaissance and Baroque styles, there was also some continuity. For example, many Baroque paintings still included classical themes from ancient Greece and Rome, and both Renaissance and Baroque art included many works of religious art with Christian themes. It would not be until the shift to Neoclassicism in the 1700s that art would become more secularized. Baroque art also makes use of linear perspective. It did not go back to the flat appearances of Medieval art.

The biggest change to take place in art between 1450 and 1700 was the shift from the Renaissance style to the Baroque style as Europe shifted from the Renaissance to the Reformation era. This shift resulted in art that was more emotional and religious, while still keeping some traits of Renaissance art like linear perspective and classical themes.

ABOVE-AVERAGE ESSAY (4/6)

284 Words

The most important change in European art from the period 1450 to 1700 was the change from Renaissance art to Mannerism and Baroque styles. This change took Renaissance styles, which focused on symmetry and restraint, and changed art into something more imbalanced and emotional.

Renaissance art emphasized classical themes and was created to be very balanced and restrained because Renaissance artists found this beautiful. An example of this would be Michelangelo's *David*, which shows David posed very thoughtfully before killing Goliath. In Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam* in the Sistine Chapel, Adam is just kind of sitting there. His face is not very emotional even though God is right there reaching for him.

Mannerist and Baroque artists wanted to bring in more emotion and play around with symmetry and balance. Mannerist artists would mess with the proportions and would elongate people. An example of this would be Michelangelo's *Last Judgment* painting, which shows everyone with huge muscles and looking disproportional. Baroque artists wanted to incorporate emotion. Great examples of this are found in Bernini's sculptures. Bernini's *David* shows David in the middle of the action of slinging a stone at Goliath. David's face is very angry, which is different from his more composed face when Michelangelo sculpted him. Bernini's *Ecstasy of St. Teresa* shows St. Teresa of Avila with an angel. She is having a very emotional moment and seems to be beside herself. This is much different from Michelangelo's Adam who looked kind of unimpressed next to God while God was creating him.

European art changed quite a bit between 1450 and 1700, with the balanced Renaissance style giving way to the more experimental style of Mannerism and the emotional art of the Baroque.

CONTEXTUALIZATION	0	<i>This essay does not provide contextualizing evidence.</i>
THESIS	1	<i>The thesis makes a historically-defensible claim supported by a line of reasoning.</i>
EVIDENCE I	1	<i>The essay includes multiple pieces of specific evidence relevant to the prompt.</i>
EVIDENCE II	1	<i>The evidence is clearly used to support claims in topic sentences.</i>
REASONING	1	<i>Clear comparisons are made between Renaissance art and Baroque/Mannerism.</i>
COMPLEXITY	0	<i>The essay does not demonstrate a complex understanding.</i>
TOTAL	4	<i>The essay could be improved with contextualization and greater complexity.</i>

BELOW-AVERAGE ESSAY (2/6)

101 Words

The most significant change in European art was the change from Renaissance art to Baroque art. This change resulted in art that was less balanced and more emotional than art in the Renaissance.

Renaissance art was very symmetrical, with everything being balanced. Whatever was on one side of a Renaissance painting or sculpture had to be balanced with what was on the other side. With Baroque art, the painting or the sculpture did not have to be balanced. Baroque art also had emotional portrayals and had people in motion instead of being in still poses that were typical of Renaissance art.

CONTEXTUALIZATION	0	<i>The essay does not include any attempt at contextualization.</i>
THESIS	1	<i>The thesis makes a clear and defensible claim backed by a line of reasoning.</i>
EVIDENCE I	0	<i>This essay does not include any specific evidence.</i>
EVIDENCE II	0	<i>This essay does not include any specific evidence.</i>
REASONING	1	<i>Valid comparisons are made between Renaissance art and Baroque art.</i>
COMPLEXITY	0	<i>The essay does not demonstrate a complex understanding.</i>
TOTAL	2	<i>The essay would benefit from the addition of specific evidence.</i>