**Critical Thinking Assignment 1**

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| Course Name: **Academic Writing and Research Skills** | Student’s Name: |
| Course Code: **RES-500** | Student’s ID Number: |
| Semester: 1st | CRN: |
| Academic Year: 2024/2025, 1st Term | |

**For Instructor’s Use only**

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| Instructor’s Name: | |
| Students’ Grade: / 15 | Level of Marks: High/Middle/Low |

**Regulations:**

* This assignment is an individual assignment.
* Support your submission with course material concepts, principles, and theories from the textbook along with few scholarly, peer-reviewed journal articles.
* **Use Saudi Electronic University academic writing standards and APA style guidelines,** citing references as appropriate.
* **Submit your findings in a 3–4-page document, excluding the title page, abstract and required reference page, which are never a part of the minimum content requirements, in the Assignment Dropbox.**
* I**t is strongly encouraged that you submit all assignments to the Turnitin Originality Check** (available under Information folder on your Blackboard) prior to submitting them to your instructor for grading. If you are unsure how to submit an assignment to the Originality Check tool, review the Turnitin Originality Check – Student Guide for step-by-step instructions.

**An Overview** aboutAssignment submission Time & grades:

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| **Type of Assignment** | **Posting Date** | **Due date** | **Marks** | **Grace period\*** |
| **Critical thinking** | **Week 2** | **End of Week 3** | **15** | 1. **days** |

\* Grace Period: with accepted excuse (accepted by instructor) with deduction of 10% for late submission

**Module 2**

**Assignment-I: Topic selection & research questions (80 points)**

A topic of research should be chosen. It can be either a research paper or a startup concept. Once the topic is finalized, the research questions (based on which objectives of the study will be formed) must be developed (not more than three). Each selection must be discussed in detail with logic and rationale. Reasons for the topic should be discussed first followed by discussion on selection of each of the research questions.

Answers

**The Economic Impact of Public Art On Urban Development and Cultural Tourism in Saudi Arabia**

The new focus on culture and art in Saudi Arabia aims to transform cities and cultural tourism in the kingdom. The creative industry has a critical role in the Kingdom’s Vision 2030, which is the growth of new revenue sources in Saudi Arabia besides oil and fuel. For example, developing places with the identity and histories of Saudi Arabia contributes to the feeling of belonging, hence improving its urban growth. Public art also has a positive economic impact on cultural tourism in the Kingdom. For instance, public art projects like Riyadh Art can attract and retain residents, directly promoting cultural tourism. Public arts, displaying the vitality of a city, act as a magnet for tourism: cultural, arts, and heritage are critical components of travelers’ itineraries, sometimes enticing tourists to stay longer than they originally intended. The successful legacy of cultural tourism created by the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, dedicated to Saudi art and culture, encourages travelers worldwide to co-participate in the city’s remembering of its culture and pride. ***This research is undertaken with the aim of finding out the economic impact of public art on urban development and cultural tourism in Saudi Arabia.***

**Research Questions**

The aim of the study will be achieved by answering the following research questions:

1. What is the economic impact of public art on urban development in Saudi Arabia?
2. What is the economic impact of public art on cultural tourism in Saudi Arabia?
3. What is the economic impact of public art on community engagement and urban identity in Saudi Arabia?

**The Rationale of the Research Questions**

**RQ1: What is the economic impact of public art on urban development in Saudi Arabia?**

Urban identity, through public art, shapes city planning and often leads to growing property values and further urban development. Riyadh Art, the first and biggest public art program in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, enriches the urban environment by creating civic and social interaction possibilities. Thus, urban development is not only about enhancing living conditions for residents as well as safety and access to public amenities but also the overall community participation. Urban art enriches cityscapes and enhances environmental quality for residents. For example, the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture is an architectural landmark and facility supporting culture and cultural differences. It is important to stress that the concept of public art is related to making the city inclusive and lively, such as public art, which can become economic development since it may attract more businesses and residents (Gesare, 2024).

**RQ2: What is the economic impact of public art on cultural tourism in Saudi Arabia?**

The Noor Riyadh festival and Tuwaiq Sculpture Symposium are an example of how public art positively impacts cultural tourism in Saudi Arabia. Such events are aimed to support the creative economy in the country and may bring the change to transform the city into a tourism city in the Middle East. The events, one in the form of the world’s biggest light festival and the other is the biggest Sculpting Symposium, are both a center of attraction for local people and artists worldwide. For example, the third edition of Noor Riyadh, invited more than 100 artists worldwide, creating a productive cultural chain, including international tourism, cultural exchange, and knowledge transfer (Arab News, 2023). The festival engaged international visitors, improving Riyadh’s cultural scene and fostering global connections. Public art has the potential to provide a thriving cultural milieu that attracts both local and international artists and visitors. Overall, investing in public art initiatives will have a positive economic impact on urban development and cultural tourism in Saudi Arabia.

**RQ3: What is the economic impact of public art on community engagement and urban identity in Saudi Arabia?**

Public art nurtures urban development through the creative industry, a growing wealth generator in Saudi Arabia’s economy. Public art fosters new urbanism, spurring creativity and creating a hub for architects, designers, and artists to flourish. Artistic pleasures are a vital component of a healthy society. Therefore, public art projects can be viewed as necessary to create jobs in the creative industries, expand the private sector, attract foreign investment, and, more importantly, consolidate the cultural soft power of cities (Downey & Sherry, 2023).

**References**

Arab News. (2023, November 26). *Noor Riyadh lights up Saudi Arabia’s cultural ecosystem*. Arab News; Arabnews. https://www.arabnews.com/node/2415341/corporate-news

Downey, H., & Sherry, J. F. (2023). Public art tourism: Atmospheric stories in city margins. *Annals of Tourism Research*, *101*, 103606–103606. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2023.103606

Gesare, D. (2024). The Role of Public Art in Community Identity and Urban Development. *International Journal of Arts Recreation and Sports*, *3*(4), 14–26. https://doi.org/10.47941/ijars.2068