PAPER #1: “WHAT SHOULD MUSEUMS DO?”

DUE: WEEK #5, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 BY 2:00pm

One of the recurring themes of this course is the role museums play within their communities. Several of the readings in the first four weeks explore this issue, and consider how institutions have dealt with questions of mission, outreach, accountability, and cultural representation. This includes not only WHAT ideas are represented in museums but WHO controls how such information is shaped and displayed. Please prepare a 5-6 double-spaced paper that compares and contrasts at least three of the authors assigned during the first four weeks of class (assignments for Jan. 22 through Feb. 12) who address these concerns.

NOTE: Specific examples are your friends! Provide detailed examples from the readings and/or the two class field trips (the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey and “Heart and Soul” at the Stockton Art Gallery) to illustrate your points. A good tip…write as if your professors have not done the reading or visited these places and you are convincing us of your argument.

Please be careful in quoting and paraphrasing statements from the readings. There is a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism in this course. You are expected to footnote all direct quotations as well as any time you draw on ideas or information from outside your own personal experience (Chicago Manual of Style or MLA, either is fine).

Please proofread all papers before submitting them. Papers are submitted to the course Blackboard Site, and can be uploaded at any time the week before the assignment due date, but should be submitted by 2:00 pm on that day (thereafter they will be marked as late). Grading will be based on (1) effective use of English including spelling, grammar, organization, and clarity of expression, and (2) content, including your choice of topics and use of supporting detail.

Good luck!