

HCC 1A: Pre-writing Grid #3 Analyzing Visual Rhetoric: Masaccio's 1427 Trinity

V. Folkenflik

Assignment: You have been asked to formulate and support a thesis about the way in which Masaccio's painting uses linear perspective to set up a relationship between its groups of figures and the viewer, and thus to establish a relationship (both connection and division) between that viewer and the divine. Your prompt instructs you to start by making a "brainstorm" list of interesting observations: bodies, objects, architecture, space, color, lines, and brushstrokes. Then pick some of the most interesting "brainstorm" items to use for this grid. Before you begin, re-read lecture and section notes, the Panofsky assignment, and Prof. Herbert's chapter in <https://eee.uci.edu/programs/humcore/Student/WritersHandbook/>).

Identify a detail from your "brainstorm" list	Why is this detail interesting?	Relation to linear perspective?	Any useful concepts from Panofsky?	Any specific connection to theological belief ?	SO WHAT? How could this detail help you explain the way this painting suggests the relationship between humans and the divine?
What did you see first? What have you added now?	Body, face, posture, object, architectural feature, color, line, brushstroke?	Vanishing point, viewer, orthogonal, horizon, transverse line, distant points?	If so, give page # and key phrase.	The "Trinity," three "persons," doctrine of "kenosis," saints, ritual of Catholic mass?	Connection? Division? Mortal life? Eternal life? Yes/but?