**How to Read a Monument: Student Guide**

**D-I-S-S-E-C-T**

**D**etail:

Upon viewing the monument, make a list of all the details you see without stopping- don’t feel a need to analyze or connect them to each other.

**I**nscription:

Carefully examine the monument for an inscription on or near the monument. To whom is the inscription and monument dedicated and why is he/her or they being remembered in this form?

**S**tructure:

How are the pieces of this monument working together to create meaning? What material is the monument made from? (Research this if you are not sure.) Examine the pieces of the monument. What is the architectural style of the monument? (Research this.) Was the style inspired by another historical period? (For example- classical.)

**S**ymbols:

Record possible symbolic elements of the monument. What associations did the society then make with these symbols? What associations does your society now make when examining these symbols?

**E**motion: What is the emotional impact of the monument?

How should the audience feel when viewing it as a whole? What about the separate components of the monument?

**C**ontext:

What is the historical context of the monument? When was it built and what time period does it memorialize?

**T**ext:

Now that you have explored the monument’s visual components, examine any text on or near the monument. Approach this text as you would any reading. Examine for thematic concepts, historical significance, and allusions that connect the monument to the time period and other historical or cultural icons.

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