

# Paper Proposal

## Introduction

The Baroque period has shown an obvious distinction from the Renaissance period. It was not as sudden and solidified in beginning as it became towards the end. There were three significant movements helped slowly introduced the major characteristics of the Baroque period. Something that is noteworthy within all the artworks above is the exaggerations of the postures and facial expressions of the subjects used to convey drama and strong emotions within the viewer. The way the subjects are “moving” in the works makes for well-intended illustration of theatrical drama. In addition, the use of the contrast of light and dark color brings attention to the certain parts or characters. These key components are most prominent in the chosen artworks as well as the majority of Baroque art.

## Body Paragraphs

1. The Baroque period was officially marked by the successful comeback of the Catholic Church and slowly evolved with minor modifications.
  - a) Catholic Church approved of the use of art, specifically for religious purposes.
    - “Not only did it have to instruct, it had to inspire”.
  - b) In response, many artists began to shift their styles towards the more contrasting, awakening baroque style

2. The Baroque period went through many movements in the beginning, the highlight, and the ending of it.

c) The period started for with a “relatively naturalistic aesthetics and overall respect for verisimilitude” at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

- Also known as the “proto-Baroque” movement
- While the movement initially used contrasting lighting and darker color schemes, it still held on to the intentions of presenting a realistic and 3-dimensional view of their artwork

d) The second phase was move focused on capturing movement within the art

- Brought on intense emotions
- Known as the “High Baroque” movement

e) The third phase of the period emphasized the importance of light

- Artists had to find a means of using light to invoke a specific emotion, highlight significant characters, and maintain the realistic presentation
- Known as the “Late Baroque”

[www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Baroque\\_period#Influences\\_on\\_the\\_Baroque\\_Age](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Baroque_period#Influences_on_the_Baroque_Age)

3. The main highlights of the three crucial movement during the Baroque period are shown in many of the artworks during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



*f) Hercules and Achelous*

- The various curves and angles depicted by the struggle between Hercules and Achelous
  - With the many angles, a sharp difference in light and darkness are naturally created
- The emphasis in the facial expression aids in the intensity of the feeling the work is supposed to provoke
- The position of the two captures them in motion

[www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/1982.60.129/](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/1982.60.129/)



*g) Venus Giving Arms to Aeneas*

- Differentiation in multiple angles aids in the light and darkness contrast and manipulating emotions
- Like *Hercules and Achelous*, the positions of the bodies depict the sculpture as if it is moving

[www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/32.100.158/](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/32.100.158/)



*h) Merry Company on a Terrace*

- Light and Darkness distinction
  - The woman in the middle is the most highlighted character; indicates she is important
- All the characters in the painting are doing some type of movement
  - Also amplified by light and darkness distinction

[www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/58.89/](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/58.89/)



i) *The Lamentation*

- Light and darkness distinction
  - Jesus Christ is the most highlighted; indication of importance
  - Two cupids under Christ have a mixture of light and dark; might indicate importance but also hidden and unaware
  - The man with the urn, Joseph of Arimathea, included by artist, is most darkened figure, meaning he's not as significant as the rest of the characters
- Exaggeration of Body Postures
  - Made in 1603, this painting was mad during the proto-Baroque; less attention on creating 3-dimensional space
  - Focused on balancing emotions and naturalism
  - Not much exaggeration as other works from later in the 17<sup>th</sup> century

## **Conclusion**

This specific art period is identifiable by its' purpose of emotionally moving and creating a live picture in most paintings. The proto – Baroque remained the naturalism within the works while still introducing lighting contrasts and dark color schemes. The high Baroque included movements in both painting and sculptures by creating the figures in mid-action. However, in paintings, it brought 3-dimensional aspect to a flat surface. The third movement, the Late Baroque, place further emphasis on the importance of lighting. Now lighting was used bring attention to important figures within the works while also continuing to manipulate emotions and movement. Artworks such as the *Merry Company on a Terrace*, *The Lamentation*, *Hercules and Achelous*, and *Venus Giving Arms to Aeneas* showcased these main characteristics. Overall, the Baroque period gave viewers a more natural and awestricken perspective in a way that the Renaissance period could not.

