For Those Who Stay: Question for Response Paper on Alberti’s Theories of Painting

Assignment
Write your response to the following questions. Base them on the information in the on-line reading assignment titled Leon Battista Alberti: Excerpts from On Painting on the Instructor’s web site under Art 312. Your answers should be typed and double spaced. There is no required length for your responses—use your own best judgment.

1. What qualities does Alberti ascribe to the art of painting that make it, for him, an honorable pursuit?

2. What evidence does Alberti provide to persuade his readers that painting is a noble profession?

3. For Alberti, the term istoria refers to the literary subject of a painting, but also the specific form in which that subject is presented in a painting. What pictorial qualities are necessary, in Alberti’s opinion, for a successful isotria?

4. What, in Alberti’s opinion, is the relationship between nature and beauty in the style of a successful painting? Is copying nature exactly adequate to produce a beautiful picture?

Scoring
There are fifteen points at stake for this assignment on a sliding scale. At one end of the scale, if you fail to complete the assignment, fifteen points will be deducted from the point tally for your final grade. Plus, you will be charged with one absence from class. On the other hand, if you do very well on the assignment, fifteen points will be added to the point tally for your final grade. If you complete the assignment, but do average work, no points will be deducted or added to your final point tally.