Renaissance Arts Webquest

This assignment is intended to familiarize you with some of the most famous examples of art/literature from the Italian Renaissance. Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper, using complete sentences.

**Leonardo da Vinci**
The *Mona Lisa*:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/leonardo/gallery/monalisa.shtml
1) Who (most likely) is the figure pictured in *Mona Lisa*? What is another possibility for its identity?
2) How did da Vinci paint such an ambiguous (able to be interpreted in different ways) expression on Mona Lisa’s face?
3) How did da Vinci give the painting more depth, making the background look more distant?
4) Where does the painting reside today?

The *Last Supper*
5) In what city is the painting located?
6) What event does it depict?
7) Why is the painting deteriorating more rapidly than others of its type?
8) What is the controversy in the painting, famously discussed in the popular book *The da Vinci Code*?

**Michelangelo**
*Sistine Chapel Ceiling*
http://arthistory.about.com/od/famous_paintings/a/sischap_ceiling.htm
9) Who commissioned Michelangelo to paint the chapel ceiling?
10) About how large is the painting (dimensions of the ceiling)
11) What are some of the scenes depicted?
12) How long did it take to finish?
13) How did he reach the ceiling to paint it?

**David**
http://vlsi.colorado.edu/~rbloem/david.html
14) What is different about Michelangelo’s *David*, compared to other statues of the same character by other sculptors?
15) Why did the city of Florence commission Michelangelo to create the statue?

**Petrarch**
http://italian.about.com/library/weekly/aa021600a.htm
16) What form of poetry did Petrarch develop?
17) For whom did he write most of his sonnets? Why?
Web Quest / Art

1. Lisa Gherardini, the wife of a Florentine silk merchant was most likely the candidate for the Mona Lisa. Another possibility is a self portrait of Leonardo Da Vinci.

2. Da Vinci painted such an ambiguous expression on Mona Lisa's face because of its self portrait possibilities, blurring edges technique (make your own opinion).

3. Da Vinci gave the painting more depth by using a technique known as sfumato, the blurring of sharp edges by blending colors. The background of the painting was made to look more hazy, with fewer distinct outlines (Aerial perspective).

4. Today the painting is in the Louvre currently (Paris).

5. The Last Supper is located in the city of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan.

6. The event that the painting depicts is the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples.

7. The painting is deteriorating more rapidly than others of its type because of a "touch up" in the 18th century (painted on dry plaster).

8. The controversy discussed in the book "The Da Vinci Code" was that John is actually Mary Magdalene, but
most still think it is a more feminine John.

9) Pope Julius II requested for Michelangelo to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

10) The ceiling of the chapel is 137 feet long by 43 feet width. 5000 sq ft

11) In the center of the ceiling, the book of Genesis is depicted, prophets are also shown on either side of the Sistine Chapel.

12) Michelangelo took approximately four years to finish the detail of the ceiling. From July 1508 to October 1512 he labored away painting the eminence chapel ceiling.

13) Michelangelo reached the ceiling using a complex system of ladders and scaffolding that could hold him, and his tools.

14) Michelangelo used thick slabs of marble and was very careful, but others used thinner slabs that were not as neat.

15) The city commissioned Michelangelo to create the statue so that enemies would know that Florence was not to be messed with.
16) The love sonnet form of poetry was developed by Petrarch.

17) Petrarch wrote his sonnets for Laura de Noves, because he was in love with her.