

**“The Best Possible Visitor Experience”  
2019 Garden Docent Education Training  
Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens**

**February 4 Object-based Learning, Critical Thinking, and Inquiry**

**Objectives**

After completing this session of the training program, participants will be better able to:

1. Communicate a refined understanding of object-based learning, including the use of frameworks;
2. Demonstrate their understanding of the connection between object-based learning and critical thinking;
3. Describe the inquiry method and discuss how to use it to facilitate conversations with visitors in the museum.

I. Introduction

- a. The overall topic for tonight—skills and methods (on Venn Diagram)
  1. Review of object-based learning (OBL)
  2. Current docent practice
  3. How can we make the visitor’s experience less passive?

II. Review the readings and distill

- a. Shuh: *Teaching Yourself to Teach With Objects*
- b. Gartenhaus: *Teaching with Questions*
- c. Marsh: *Opening the Way for Questions*

III. *Know One*: Interlocking Frameworks

- a. Object-based Learning: Discussion of the Steps
  1. Perception
  2. Description
  3. Analysis
  4. Interpretation
- b. The Critical Thinking Connection: Discussion of the Steps
  1. Knowledge
  2. Analysis
  3. Synthesis
- c. Inquiry
  1. Definition
  2. Kinds of questions
  3. *Do One*: Inquiry activity
  4. Beyond questions

IV. *See One*: Demonstration--Putting the Framework Together

V. Step Back

- a. What are the key pieces you will take away from tonight’s session?
- b. Did we meet the objectives?

VI. Assignment for Monday, February 11 (Motor Court & French Parterre, & Frameworks): readings