

Brainstorming for the Garden Room Lesson
2019 Garden Docent Training
Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens

Choose a room that is a likely candidate for the one you will present on for your Ten-Minute Room Demonstration. Use the mobile app to look at images, if needed. Feel free to work in groups, with a partner, or alone.

Use this worksheet to write down your thoughts for each step of developing a lesson plan. This is practice for writing your lesson plan. Feel free to ask Lisa & Audra questions.

1. *Identify your audience.....think about their needs; what are they?*
2. *What is your garden room? _____*
3. *“Read” the room. Brainstorm what your senses tell you about the room, and what you know about the room and its objects. (You would do research on your own at home.)*

4. *The BIG IDEA---How would this “big idea” framework work in this room?*

Design: Introduce visitors to the room through its design, i.e. its plan that shows its look and function.

Features: List a few features that best illustrate the garden room’s most important message. Typical features include: plants, statuary, furniture, and water.

Marjorie Post/Museum Today: Integrate information about Post as it relates to this room, especially her use of this space and the features in it. Information about Post could reference her as a garden designer, estate manager, business woman, or philanthropist. This section can also be a place to connect current museum activities to Post.

5. *Features—Brainstorm what is the Design-Function-Marjorie Post/Museum Today story for each.*

Feature 1 and design, function, Marjorie Post/museum today:

Feature 2 and design, function, Marjorie Post/museum today:

Feature 3 and design, function, Marjorie Post/museum today:

6. *Write the objectives.*

As a result of participating in this lesson, participants will be better able to:

- 1.
- 2.

7. *Write an advance organizer. Remember: It 1) finds out what your visitors already know of this room; 2) it gives a brief overview of what they will be doing by identifying the “big idea” of your conversation (refer to your objectives), and 3) arouses their curiosity or challenges them to think.*

8. *Write a hook question that grabs the visitors’ attention.*

9. *Time allowing.....Write down transitions between features and sections. Link each section to the next.*

10. *Time allowing.....Write an evaluative conclusion. First summarize the experience (refer back to your objectives and advance organizer) and then probe for the visitors' take-aways (ask the question "What will you take-away?" for instance).*