

**“The Best Possible Visitor Experience”
2022-2023 Mansion Docent Education Training
Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens**

October 11 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....distillation points
 - A. Gartenhaus
 - B. Marsh
 - C. Shuh
- III. Interlocking Frameworks
 - A. Discussion of the steps involved in OBL
 1. Perception
 2. Description
 3. Analysis
 4. Interpretation
 - B. Connections to a second framework: style, function, production—Hillwood’s material culture perspective
- IV. The Critical Thinking Connection
 - A. Discussion of the steps
 1. Knowledge
 2. Analysis
 3. Synthesis
- V. Inquiry
 - A. Definition
 - B. Kinds of questions
 - C. Inquiry activity
 - D. Beyond questions
- VI. Demonstration in the Mansion
- VII. Step Back
 - A. What are the key pieces you will take away from tonight’s session?
 - B. Did we meet the objectives?
- VIII. Next class Monday, October 17 onsite