

**Brainstorming in the Mansion for the Room Lesson**  
**Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens**  
**2022-2023 Mansion Docent Training**

This activity is designed to prepare docent trainees for presenting a ten-minute room lesson. Complete each of the questions below in the mansion room you think you will choose for your room demonstration. Feel free to work independently or trade ideas with your classmates.

**Note:** Hillwood and the mansion reopen to the public on Saturday, February 4. If you are unable to visit the mansion, this activity can be completed by using an object image from the readings and/or online collection database.

1. *Identify your audience...think about their needs; what are they?*
2. *What is your room? \_\_\_\_\_*
3. *"Read" the room. Brainstorm what you see 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 space?*

Estate:

Collection—no more than three objects:

Collector:

**Turnover, please**

5. *Objects—Identify no more than three objects and brainstorm what is the Style-Function-Production story for each.*

Object 1 and style, function, production:

Object 2 and style, function, production:

Object 3 and style, function, production:

6. *Write the objectives.*

As a result of participating in this lesson, visitors 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 objects 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).*