

**“The Best Possible Visitor Experience”
2024 Garden Docent Education Training
Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens**

February 5 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. Next Class: Wednesday, February 7 (Garden Sculptures) on Zoom (2 links) and Monday, February 12 (Motor Court & French Parterre) on Zoom (1 link)