

Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens
2026 Mansion Docent Training

Object-Based Learning Model Handout

Complete outside of class and bring completed form to February 9 class.

Assignment Instructions:

Choose any French object in a mansion room that is on the tour. Complete the form below for that object. The ideal is to do so while standing in front of the object, but, if that is not possible, use an image from a book or the online collection database. **You can bring knowledge gleaned from reading about this object to this activity, but use visual clues and the experience of looking to inform and support your take-away ideas.** Bring the completed form to the next class and we'll discuss.

Objective of this form:

After completing this form, participants will be better able to "read" an object using Hillwood's interpretive frameworks of style, function, production. "Reading" objects is a necessary skill for creating tours.

Object Name _____

Materials _____

Look carefully at this object and describe what you see.

What emotions, moods, or ideas does this object convey? How are those emotions, moods, or ideas conveyed by the object?

TURN OVER PLEASE-

What does the object tell us about the people who owned it? What does it tell about the people who used it, and how it was used? [Think about the three time periods represented at Hillwood (when objects originally owned/used; Marjorie Post's time; today) and about change over time.] **How is this information conveyed by the object?**

What does the object tell us about the people who made it? How is this information conveyed by the object?

How was the object made? (skills, materials, systems of production)

What statement is the museum making by displaying this object? (Think about the choice of object, its relationship to the other objects on view, its placement in the museum.) **Is this statement intentional?**

What does this object tell us about Marjorie Post? About ourselves?