



Looking and Reporting

Classroom Visit

Introduction to Objects Series

Great for: [courses with subjects or themes that overlap with material in collections storage](#)

This visit combines two different ways of interacting with objects to mine the curiosity of something new and the more nuanced understanding of targeted research. Students research objects from the collection that represent different themes, ideas, or approaches to the course topic and this research is then juxtaposed with in-class looking exercises at new objects to grapple with the complexity of the object, other's perspectives, and personal subjectivity.

Class Time	One visit of 1.5-3 hours (depending on class size)
Class Level	Intermediate to Advanced Undergraduate or Graduate
Class Size	Maximum of 15 students
Objectives	Practice critical observation; conduct research; connect themes, subjects, or approaches from class with real examples; reflect on personal subjectivity
Prep	Instructor selects objects from Museum collections that relate to key questions, content, or themes of their course. In pairs, students choose an object from this list and create a 5-minute presentation connecting object and course content.
Visit	Before each presentation, all students engage in a brief guided looking exercise around the object(s); the presenter shares their research with the class, and lead a short discussion on what their classmates observed or connections they have made.
Post	Students reflect on their visit in a short written response (optional).

Examples:

- The School of Nursing's *Cultures of Birth* class examined objects related to childbirth from around the world, reflecting on different birth practices and how they would accommodate cultural differences among their patients while providing the highest standard of care.
- Environmental Science's *Wetlands* class chose objects depicting wetland environments, made from wetland plants or animals, or objects used by people living in such environments. They connected their objects to themes in the course like climate change, environmental precarity, and resource extraction and creativity.