

## Object Analysis Form

Based Upon Frederick D. Drake and Sarah Drake Brown, "[A Systematic Approach to Improve Students' Historical Thinking](#)," *The History Teacher* 36, no. 4 (2003): 465-489.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Research Question \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Identify the Object

Name of Object \_\_\_\_\_

Depository and Location \_\_\_\_\_

Collection Name or Catalog Number \_\_\_\_\_

Who created the object? (individual or company name and brief bio, if known) \_\_\_\_\_

When was it created? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was the intended user of the object? \_\_\_\_\_

How much did the object cost? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Describe and Analyze the Object

Describe the object (materials, appearance, markings, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Why was the object created? (To solve a practical problem? To serve as art? To entertain? Other?) \_\_\_\_\_

What does the object tell us about the technology that existed at the time it was created? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it tell us about the activities and values of the people who made and used it? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Place the Object in Historical Context

Important people, events, and ideas at the time the object was made and used – for example, Abraham Lincoln was an important person nationally at the time of the American Civil War

Local/Regional: people, events, and ideas of the time \_\_\_\_\_

National: people, events, and ideas of the time \_\_\_\_\_

World: people, events, and ideas of the time \_\_\_\_\_

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Conclusions you can draw from the object about local/regional, national, and world context of the time \_\_\_\_\_

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**4. Identify a Claim or Point Within Your Argument That This Source Will Provide or Illustrate in Your Paper**

Claim or Point \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence from the object's description or significance that provides or illustrates this claim \_\_\_\_\_

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Evidence from the object that relates to other primary sources (which also illustrate this claim) (i.e., how might you synthesize the data represented by this source with other data?) \_\_\_\_\_

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(You may copy, paste, and fill in additional sets of section 4 if you have additional claims for which this document provides evidence.)