



## OBJECT INTERPRETATION ACTIVITY

### Remember that good interpretation is POETRY:

- Purposeful – Answer the “so what?” question – why should your audience care about this object?
- Organized – There is a beginning, middle and end – just like any great story!
- Enjoyable – In order to keep your audience engaged they need to enjoy the experience
- Thematic – Themes create purpose and place an object in historical context
- Relevant – Connect the object to something that is relevant to the lives of your audience
- You! – Can you find a meaningful and purposeful personal connection that you could share?

Using these important tips, you are going to prepare a brief (3-5 minutes) interpretive presentation on a museum object. We would like you to visit the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum to find your object. Please register for a date and time slot in advance on [our website](#). If you and your family do not feel safe coming in you can search our [online database](#) or even find an object through our [Story of Us portal](#). I know we talked about finding *any* object, but let’s plan to do something from the CSPM collection.

Remember that you are welcome to tell an *accurate* story **OR** to *make up your own creative story*! If you make up a story you want to try and trick us into believing it’s true. That is going to be a difficult task!

If you’d like to submit a video of you presenting in front of your object we can work with that! Otherwise we’ll have you present on screen during the session.

### Your presentation should include:

- At least one image of your object – email to Meg the day before presentations
  - I would also love you to send in a “selfie” with your object!
- General information: approximate date it is from, what it is, what it is made of, etc.
  - I love using “NUMOP” for this – give it a Name, explain its Use, tell what it is Made Of, and share what the object says about the People who used and made it
- Consider the following (you do not have to incorporate all of these into your presentation – I just want to give you some ideas)

- What exhibit/collection is this from? How does the object help to tell that story/fit the theme of that space?
  - Is this an object we still use today? Why or why not?
  - Would museums be museums if they didn't have artifacts/objects like this on display?
  - If the object could talk what stories would it tell?
  - Consider the symbolism of the object. Is an old beat-up shoe *just* a shoe or could it represent hard work, a specific type of job, class, gender, comfort, etc?
- Be sure to engage your audience during your presentation. Encourage them to ask questions. Pose questions to them about the object. Make relevant comparisons to their lives (i.e. "Think about your most beat-up/worn pair of shoes. What do you use those shoes for? What do they mean to you?")

**This is also a wonderful opportunity to practice your presentation skills!**

- Speak clearly, slow down, and use your voice in interesting ways – Maybe you get louder or quieter to express emotion.
- We all have our unique presentation challenges – maybe you say "um" or "like" a lot. Record yourself practicing to see if you can pick up and work to improve upon those.
- Reference your visual aids – "If you take a close look at this photo, what might you say this object is made of?"
- Focus on eye contact and use your notes sparingly.

**Good luck! Please say "hello" when you're here! Let the front desk know to call Meg or Makaela and we'll pop upstairs if we can.**