

MUSEUM WALK ACTIVITY

Goal: Analyze a set of related primary sources in order to identify multiple perspectives.

Overview: The classroom is converted into a museum by placing primary source prints around the room. The museum exhibit is a collection of four to eight primary sources collected by the classroom teacher. In small groups, participants analyze each primary source in the gallery, recording layers of thinking about the sources written on “sticky notes.” Each group uses a different color so that groups are better able to visualize the analysis process.

Note: Use one of the Primary Source Sets provided by the Library of Congress (<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/>) or create your own set of primary sources to support your instruction.

Procedure:

For Classroom Implementation:

During the exercise students will:

- Observe closely, reflect on observations, and share questions about each primary source
- Record group’s thinking on “sticky notes” for each source
- Reflect upon other groups’ observations, reflections, and questions
- Individually, write a conclusion related to the information and explanations surrounding all sources within the gallery

After the exercise:

- Have students share their conclusions and their ideas on ways to extend their learning
- Identify various skills students used during the activity and how they can assess these skills during other activities in the future

For Teacher PD Events:

- Identify variations of this exercise according to grade level and content area
- Identify variations of this exercise to reach varying learning styles and abilities (such as grouping, using technology, incorporating a variety of primary sources, etc.)
- Identify other exercises which promote deeper conversations between students and make thinking more visible
- Identify ways to locate, select, and share a set of primary sources using the Library of Congress website effectively to create their own museum gallery set

