Object Analysis Form

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


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

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?)

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