

Create an Exhibit

You be the curator!

While **archivists** evaluate, preserve, and catalog original material such as historically valuable documents and photos, **curators** oversee collections of artwork and historical items and often help create exhibits. This handout will show you how to curate an exhibit.

Choose your Artifact

Something from the Past:

Find an interesting object from home. It could be something old that's been in your family for a long time. Ask family members about it to learn about where it came from and how it was used, then look up information about similar items online or in books. Find out when the first one was made, who invented or made the object, what its purpose or function was, if it was common to everyday life in the past or unusual, and what types of people typically owned or used it. If it is a special document or picture, explain why it's unique and what story it helps tell about the past.



OR



A Time Capsule Artifact:

Choose an object from your home that is in use today that may become unfamiliar or seen as unusual to people 100 years from now. Write a description of the object from the perspective of someone in the future teaching others about the past. Explain how it is used and why it was created. What would this object tell people about life and events in present day?

Now figure out how you want to display the object. Will it be on the wall or on a table? Mount or lay the object against a background in such a way as to make it easy to view and see its details. Make sure lighting allows the object to be easily seen.

Next, write a description for the object that will serve as the label. The description should be informative but concise. Mount the label near your display if it's on the wall or position it near your object if you are displaying it on a table.



Finally, take a picture and share it! Post it on social media with the hashtag #LPHSmuseum and tell us about your mini exhibit.



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