

Nifty 50s.....Required Activity (2014)

Museum Interpretation of Primary Sources

**Date Due:** On or before May 5th

**Task:** Interpret an artifact from the time period between 1950 – 1959 and prepare it for display in the museum.

**Requirements:**

1. Locate a primary source (document, photo, paraphernalia, ephemera, clothing, etc.) from home, a relative or neighbor, or from RJH collection.
2. Make and record initial observations of your primary source. What facts can you determine by simply looking at it?
3. Identify the primary source - How would you categorize this item?
  - A. Text:
    1. Document (draft cards, ration books, passports, etc)
    2. Letters, diaries, journals,
    3. Ephemera (advertising, posters, postcards, newspapers, magazine, sheet music, etc.)
    4. Statistics (census data, maps, surveys, blueprints)
  - B. Image:
    1. Photograph
    2. Film or video
    3. Art
    4. Drawings,
    5. Political cartoons
  - C. Audio:
    1. Interview
    2. Music
    3. Recording
    4. Oral history
  - D. Object:
    1. Textile (clothing, flags, badges, hats, uniforms, etc.)
    2. Other artifacts (tools, toys, weapons, helmets, household items, money, etc.)

4. Research the following:
  - a) Origin (Who created or manufactured it? Where did it come from?)
  - b) Provenance (the history of ownership or location of an item – what is its story?)
  - c) Use or purpose (can you determine why it was created? To entertain? Protect? Inform? Does it have a practical use?)
  - d) Personal connection– is there a good story that goes along with this item?
  - e) Wartime connection – what does this specific item tell you about the war? What does this tell you about its owner?
  
5. Interpret your item using your observations and research results to create a text panel. The text panel should include:
  - a) Title and subtitle
  - b) Symbol that represents museum category
  - c) Bulleted facts and anecdotes that best conveys its uniqueness
  
6. Exhibit the following Habits of Mind:
  - Persisting
  - Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision
  - Gathering data through all senses
  - Creating, imagining, innovating
  - Thinking flexibly
  - Striving for accuracy
  - Questioning and posing problems