

Exhibiting Your Own Collection

(Developed by Matt Welter, Curator of Education, Neville Public Museum of Brown County)

1. Distribute a collection sheet to each student and have each choose and cut out his or her favorite pieces — at least 12.
2. On the upper right corner of the back, have students initial and number each chosen object in light, small handwriting.
3. Tell the students that they have been asked by a museum to display a collection of their chosen objects. Their collection must have 6-8 objects, and the objects must have a theme.
4. Once they have chosen the objects they are to design labels for them. Each label must contain the following information:
 - a. What the object is
 - b. What it is made of
 - c. The object number
5. Encourage students to be imaginative. For example, an object might be called an African top, rather than just a top, or a toy car, rather than a car. They may even give the objects historical references, such as paper airplane from the Wright Brothers era.
6. They must now write two brief paragraphs:
 - a. What is the story is behind the objects? What do they all have in common?
 - b. Why have you chosen to collect these objects?
7. Distribute an exhibition sheet to each student. The students are now ready to create their museum exhibit in the case provided. The objects must fit into the case, without being cut. If the objects do not fit into the case, they must choose one or two objects to leave out.
8. Once exhibits are finished the students may display their exhibits to other students. Bulletin boards, walls, or chalkboard trays are all good spaces.
9. Encourage students to look at the other exhibits and have an in-class discussion on the kinds of exhibits they came up with. Suggested questions are...
 - a. What similar themes did people come up with? *Art, transportation, birds, toys, materials, etc.*
 - b. How many objects on average fit in the case?
 - c. How many of you had to eliminate an object or two?
 - d. If you could combine your exhibit with another person's whose would you choose and why?
 - e. Why was it important to number your objects? *Think about the previous question!*
 - f. If you could bring objects from home to add to your collection, what would you choose?
 - g. If the items in your collections were real, what objects would you fear most being damaged or stolen?
 - h. How do you think objects get damaged in museums?
 - i. Museums have millions of objects. Why do you think they don't show them all?

Collection Sheet



Exhibition Sheet

Exhibit Case

Object Labels

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

What These Objects Have in Common

The Reason I Chose Them

This exhibit was made by
