**Anderson/ENGL 493**

**Curating an Exhibit Project**

**PBS *Craft in America: Visionaries* (BSU Library Online Link)**[***https://fod.infobase.com/p\_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=203064***](https://fod.infobase.com/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=203064)

This semester we have discussed and investigated material rhetorics in a variety of ways. Early on, each of us brought in material objects that represented us in some way. We have read about theories underlying definitions of material rhetorics, explored them through cultural lenses, and even participated in creating them. We have visited the BSU archives and museums/architectural spaces/memorials and written about these in relationship to our class readings. Now we will bring these experiences together in a final project that asks you to become a collector and curator. (We will be reading a couple articles/chapters on curating.)

For this project, you will consider items that you might like to collect; perhaps you already have some kind of collection that you have displayed in some way. In either case, you should find items that interest you in some way. Your objects can be gathered digitally or physically, but to create a collection you’ll want to consider their meanings and their stories. It is often better to collect more objects than you will need even if some of them won’t be part of your final exhibit. In the documentary above, the participants discuss their collections. Remember that each piece will need to have some description, so you might start recording these in your journal or on index cards as you find the pieces.

Next you want to consider how these objects should be displayed. In other words, what are the connecting threads? What is the larger story involving these pieces? (The documentary can give you some ideas.) Here is a link to an exhibit that the Wampanoag people did with a museum in England: <https://www.mayflower400uk.org/wampum-stories-from-the-shells-of-native-america/>

And another on Food Justice at the Fuller Craft Museum: <https://fullercraft.org/event/food-justice-growing-a-healthy-community-through-art/> . Here is another link from the Smithsonian (Be the Curator) that may be helpful: <https://learninglab.si.edu/collections/be-the-curator/p54QKXfTqCsvAJyl>

While I would like you to spend more than an hour planning your exhibit, this link on how to make a museum exhibit in an hour is a great idea generator: <https://morrisoncountyhistory.org/?page_id=1449>

Remember that when planning an exhibit, you will want to consider the size of your space; the placement of tables, dividers, shelving, and other display needs; the pathway visitors will follow; the signage needed to guide them; and even a color scheme that enhances objects. You will also need a vision statement for the exhibit which includes what you want visitors to take away from their experience. You will also create a flyer that presents your exhibit’s opening.

**Deliverables for this project:**

• Your collection and description of the pieces.

• Vision Statement

• Plans for your exhibition and a model

• Reflection on this project