

## Examine, Share, Curate

This exercise is a quick introduction to examining primary sources and identifying relationships between different primary sources. This can be used on its own, or can build off of the Look, Think, Wonder activity.

### Part I: Examine

Take a few minutes to look around the room. Focus on one item that seems interesting to you and perform a close examination of this object. Think about the following:

- Is it a book (printed) or a manuscript (handwritten) or other object?
- What language is it in?
- Describe what the object looks like: big/small, what kind of paper, binding, illustrations, etc.
- What in the content of the book (if you can tell)?
- What author (if any) is represented here?
- When was it published or created (if you can tell)?
- Does this relate to anything you're familiar with? How?
- What do you find most interesting, unusual, or surprising about this item? Why?

- What questions do you have about this item? What context would you need in order to understand it?

## **Part II: Share/Discuss**

Take a few minutes to share what you've found with others in your group. Think especially about the following:

- For whom was this object made? Is it public or private? Who was the reader? Men, women, adults, children, wealthy people, common people, etc.? What details suggest a potential audience?
- What further research could you do on an item like this?
- What do you think was the idea behind the group of items? In other words, what is the relationship or theme of the group of objects?

## **Part III: Curate**

Form a group of 2-3 students. Together, select 2-3 items in the room that you would like to put on exhibit.

- What is the theme of your exhibition? You can focus on the books themselves, their authors, on a certain time period or country or a certain topic or theme... be creative!
- What would you want your audience to learn from such an exhibition?

- Why do you find these particular items worthy of display?