The objective of this project is to select a topic or theme from ancient Egyptian history, society, and culture and develop a hypothetical museum exhibition. You will select **four (4)** real, ancient Egyptian artifacts to illustrate the specific thesis of your exhibition. The focus of your paper should be on the contextual information and how your objects reflect your thesis.

**Choosing a Theme**

While you have a great deal of flexibility with your choices for this project, your chosen objects should all be working towards a specific theme or research question.

Don’t just copy a real-life exhibition; this is easy enough to Google and I will be checking.

Some examples of types of themes you might consider:

- **Historical**: Focusing on some aspect of a specific time period:
  - Ex: “Merging of Egyptian and Roman Culture in the Roman Period”—> objects that show characteristics of both Egyptian & Roman artistic canon

- **Religious**: Focusing on specific myths or feature specific deities:
  - Ex: “Feline Goddesses in Ancient Egypt”—> objects relating to the worship and mythology of different lion and cat goddess

- **Social**: Different aspects of Ancient Egyptian society:
- Ex: “Foreigners in Egypt” —> Objects that belonged to Nubian, Syrian, or Libyan expatriates living in Egypt that explore the way they preserve their ethnic identity.

- Ex: “The Role of Non-Royal Women from the Old to New Kingdoms” —> Objects that explore the differences in the ways men and women were portrayed in ancient Egyptian art and how it changed over time.

- **Occupational**: Objects that belong to a hypothetical individual that holds a specific job or a specific role in society (scribes, doctors, priests, etc.) that reveal aspects of their life and livelihood.

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**Choosing Objects**

- All four of your objects chosen must be **real, verified, ancient Egyptian artifacts held in repository in a museum somewhere in the world**. You cannot go on eBay or Wikipedia and pick random things that “look” Egyptian. You will be asked to provide all identifying information in an appendix at the end of your paper, including the institution where your object is being held. Your objects should serve to support your chosen interpretation or thesis statement through their decoration, use, and context.

- You *may* include architectural elements from monuments if they help support your thesis. You can simply call them “facsimiles” for the sake of the paper premise.

- You can use books on reserve, online sources, and museum databases to find other objects.

- You may include up to **two** objects discussed in class, provided that you research the objects beyond what was covered in our lectures.

- You **must include at least one object that you saw in person** at a museum.
Suggested Outline

- **Introduction** - Address the following points:
  - What is the title and focus of your hypothetical exhibition
  - What impression do you want your audience to learn about this topic after viewing your exhibition (i.e. your thesis statement).
  - First Person POV is **NOT** Allowed.

Ex: *This exhibition is titled “Religion at Akhetaten: Monotheism or Polytheism?” It seeks to illustrate the complicated relationship between the traditional state gods, particularly funerary deities, and the new Aten cult for the non-royal citizens of Tell el-Amarna. Visitors to this exhibition will learn that despite the ubiquitous presence of the Aten in official royal art, that the average citizen of Amarna appeared to continue to worship the old gods based on evidence from their homes and burials.*

- **Body Part 1:** Introduction to the Topic
  - This is where you should discuss the key contextual information relevant to your topic.
  - You do not need to introduce your objects just yet, but spend as much time as is necessary establishing an understanding of your topic so that your “visitors” will be able to better engage with the objects when you begin discussing them.
  - First Person POV is **NOT** Allowed.

Ex: Based on the example introduction from above, I would go on to talk about: *What is the Amarna Period - what was it, when was it, who was king? What is the Aten cult? Why is it so different? What was state religion like before this time? What is Tell el-Amarna? Did the Aten cult last?*

- **Body Part 2:** Introduction to the Art
  - This is a good time to restate your thesis, especially if you have not discussed it in greater detail in Part 1. It can be a nice transition from context to objects, if you are struggling to make the jump.
  - You should introduce your **four** objects in a logical manner that flows well with the thesis of your paper. This will be different for everyone, so if you are struggling to determine an order, let me know.
  - You should identify (by title, underlined or in italics), and describe your objects, just as you did for your visual analysis paper. The interpretation of the objects should be your explanation of how they relate back to the thesis.
  - First Person POV is **NOT** Allowed.
Ex: (Please write more complete, better organized descriptions than this. This should not be taken as the standard...) This object is a facsimile of Boundary Stela U from Tell el-Amarna. It contains several rows of hieroglyphic text featuring the “Hymn to the Aten” as well as a description of the founding ideology and layout of the city of Akhetaten. In the lunette at the top, you can see a relief of the Royal Family — specifically Akhenaten, Nefertiti, Meketaten, and Meretaten, in a pose praising the Aten, who is shown as a long-armed sun disk at the top of the composition. Despite the inscription’s insistence that Akhetaten was founded as a place where the Aten alone would be worshipped, outside of official royal art, there is iconographic evidence for wide-scale worship of traditional household and funerary deities, and little evidence that non-elites engaged with the Aten cult. —The last sentence is the interpretation that relates the object back to the thesis.

• Conclusion: Reflection
  • Why did you choose these four objects for this theme?
  • Do you believe that the evidence presented in your exhibition is convincing? Why or Why not?
  • First Person POV IS Allowed, although not required.

Appendix A: Objects

• Include a chart or outline with the following information about each of your 4 objects:
  • Title
  • Date
  • Medium
  • Repository
  • Image

Appendix B: Sources

• Include a bibliography in a format of your choosing (but please identify the format in the header), with at least five (5) scholarly sources.
  • If you include a source that I had previously rejected in either my feedback on your proposal or in written correspondence, your grade will be reduced.
  • No annotations are required
  • Your paper must also use footnotes (not endnotes) throughout the work to cite information that is not yours, even if it is paraphrased. Failure to cite in text will result in an automatic failing grade.