

## Material Culture Analysis Guide

### **Title of Source Material:**

**Observation:** The first step in a material culture analysis is to describe what you see, carefully, thoroughly and without judgment.

What do you see in the object? Describe everything you can about it - content, imagery, text, style, and craftsmanship.

**Analysis:** Analyze the object, asking questions that uncover the meaning of the object and what it tells us about the society that produced it.

#### *Creator*

Who created the object? What can you infer from the object about the *purpose* for which it was created?

#### *Audience*

Who was the object intended for? What can you infer from the object about its intended use?

#### *African Americans*

What specific information about African Americans and their lives does the object convey?

#### *Interpretation*

Based on the evidence of this object what was it like to be African American during this time period? How do you make sense of this object's testimony alongside other evidence or prior knowledge you have?

**Questions:** Brainstorm questions based on your initial encounter with the object.

What questions do you have? What other kinds of information would you like to know? Whose voices would you like to hear?