Analyzing Museum/Historic Site Exhibit

Name ________________________________
Hour ____     Date  ________________

Name of museum or historic site _____________________________________________

1) What is the general theme or story line of the entire exhibit? ___________________________________________

2) Select one section or display to analyze. Which one did you choose? _________________________________

3) What is the particular theme of the section or display case? ____________________________________________

4) Choose one artifact to analyze _________________ State its exact or approximate age (circa) ________

5) Is this an actual artifact or a reproduction? ___ actual    ___reproduction    ___ not sure

6) Describe its physical qualities (material it is made of, dimensions, probable weight, texture, color, condition, lettering) ____________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

7) What was its function or purpose? ________________________________________________________________

8) How does this object fit into the theme or help tell the exhibit's story? ________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

9) What other objects are nearby? __________________________________________________________________
How do they all tie together? _____________________________________________________________

10) Read the object’s label and evaluate its quality - Enough information? Too much? ______________________
________________________________________________________________________

11) Describe how this object is displayed (on a horizontal or vertical surface, on a mount, mannequin, or some other means) ________________________________________________________________

12) You are the curator - describe a different way you may choose to present it in this exhibit 
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Activities:

1) Plan out an exhibit of your favorite objects from your personal life. What objects would you include? What would the theme be? How would you display them for visitors? How would you create your labels for each object? What would they look like? What is the visitor to do – simply view your objects or take a more interactive approach?

2) Assume that your school will close tomorrow and will reopen as a historic site in 75 years. Everything will remain in its place as of the end of today. You or your historic site team is to plan out this future historic site. What areas would you create? What areas of the building and what objects would be of primary importance? What would visitors in 75 years do here?

Truman Presidential Museum & Library