

ARTIFACT

ANALYSIS

An artifact analysis is a systematic examination of the objects within a particular location or a person's work environment.

This could include an analysis of the items within someone's office, on their desk, in their pockets, or in their purse.

Seeing what object a person has and interacts with in their job helps to reveal characteristics of both what they do and the culture within which they do it. These nuances might not be noted through other means.

DIRECTIONS:

Have the students decide upon where they would be interested in conducting the artifact analysis at. Would they be interested in the objects that are in the person's office, on their desk, in their backpack, etc.?

Prior to conducting the artifact analysis be sure that the students let the person that they are conducting it with know what they are planning and obtain their permission. Once the students undertake the artifact analysis, they should take a photograph or make a sketch of what they are investigating. This will allow them to analyze the placement of items in the person's work environment.

Afterward, the students should ask the person about any items that they might have questions about. For example, what items are used for, why they are located where they are, why they have them, etc.

