

Image Notebook Guidelines

1. **IDENTIFICATION:** What is it? What kind of “thing” is it? Write the name of the work and type of object (house, church, portrait, etc.) If architecture: where is it? Location is an important part of architectural identification. Since most other art work is portable and likely to be in museums today, location is not important UNLESS it was made to be seen in a particular place.
2. **ARTIST OR CREATOR:** Who made it? If we don't know the person, do we know the cultural group? This might be the case with native American artifacts and art works. Sometimes we know the type of person who made something: colonial houses were often made by carpenters or builders – there were very few, if any, professional architects in this country until the mid-19th century. In either case, this is important information.
3. **DATE OR PERIOD:** if we don't know the exact date, what do we know about when it was made? Try to be more specific than century!
4. **STYLE:** What style is it? In American art, the style name is often the same as the period name. But rather than just naming a period, go a bit further and consider whether and how this particular work is typical of the style/period, or not typical. If you can make that decision, then you can also answer this question: What are the key qualities or characteristics of this style in general and how does this particular work reflect those qualities?
5. **CLIENT OR PATRON OR BOTH:** Who was the client (if we know)? Did the person who paid for the work commission it for himself or someone else? If there is no single client, who was expected to use the work and why was it made?
6. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Finally, identify at least one significant and important development which this work demonstrates. Significance reflects the relationship of the work to a larger context of potentially similar things. Keep in mind that things become significant today for a range of reasons which may have little to do with why the work was actually important in historical terms – focus on the historical importance.

You do not need to write complete sentences – bullet lists will work in many cases. But you should organize it in a way which makes clear that you're answering all the categories.