

# ACTIVITY:

## Approaching the Book as an Artifact

### ASSIGNMENT

Look at the book selection provided and choose one or several books to look at more closely. Examine the books by answering the questions below. Be prepared to present your findings.

### DESCRIBE

SUBSTANCE. What materials is the book made of, inside and out?

CONTENT. Can you read the text? Are there any illustrations?

FORM. What is the size of the book? Are there any signs of use? Are there any marginalia in the text?

SENSE. Is the book heavy or light? How does it feel? How does it smell? Record any other information your senses give you.

### INTERPRET

THINK. What can the size/weight/appearance/material of the book tell you about its use?

What can it tell you about the potential owner/user?

Whose perspectives are represented? Whose are missing?

### SUM UP

What is the author, title, and publication year of the book you selected?

Who is the audience the book is intended for? Why?

In what kind of setting would the book be used? Why?

What challenges did the book present to you and/or what information/perspectives were missing?