

Useful tips for your object analysis:

1. Clearly indicate what object you have chosen in your title and in your introductory sentence. Was there a museum accession number? if so include this; if not indicate which room it was in. Why did you choose it?

2. Give a brief description in your own words. This is an important skill to learn. If the measurements were available in the museum labelling please give them. Otherwise you should estimate (do not state an object was large/small - size is relative!). For guidance in writing descriptions have a look at some of the museum catalogues available in the library.

- Think about medium (what is it made of?), shape, size, decoration.
- Was it part of a wider group of objects?
- Do you know the context or the site where your object was found? If not say so...

3. Photo or sketch - it is always good to illustrate an object. If you are using your own photograph or sketch indicate this in the illustration caption. eg. (detail of xxx. Source: J. Bloggs, Oxford 9.3.13). If you are able to source an illustration from the Ashmolean website clearly indicate this (Source: url, date accessed)

4. Analysis - think about how your object was used:

- Who made it?
- Who used it?
- Where was it used?
- Was it traded?
- Was it utilitarian?
- Was it symbolic or ceremonial?
- Was it purely decorative?

5. Read up as much as you can on your specific type of object - if in doubt ask for help. You should situate your own analysis in the wider academic literature (**and not the internet!**). I would expect two or three specific references for your analysis.

Any questions? Email us...