

1

Exploring Disciplinary Perspectives

Select an Object(s):

In your home or your studio/lab, find an object you find very interesting and/or holds value for you. The object should have disciplinary relevance for you. It's best if the object is ambiguous enough that it's open to multiple interpretations. Ambiguity is your friend. Think ink-blot test. You may pick more than one object but the objects must somehow be related.

Provide your story:

Write down why the object holds importance for you. Does it mark a turning point in your disciplinary perspectives? If so how? Is there a story you can tell about why the object is important? **Note: It's not critical that you share your story with interviewees, but if you do decide to share your story, make sure interviewees answer the three probing questions beforehand.**

Select Subjects:

Find 2 people outside your discipline to interview about the objects you have chosen. Without providing any background into the object(s) ask them to answer the following questions. If you're an artist try to find at least one stem/non-artist and vice versa.

Probing Questions:

1. What is the first thing you notice about this object?
2. What do you think makes this object important?
3. Putting on your disciplinary hat, what is a question you could ask about the object? How would you go about answering that question?

Observations:

On the activity sheet provided write down the observations you made regarding how your interviewees answered the questions. Were you surprised by some of their interpretations? Did they provide you with a new perspective on your object?

Things to Keep in Mind

Before you ask them put on their disciplinary hats and imagine how you would answer it if you were them.

- Asking "What else?" usually elicits more ideas and "Can you say more?" will draw further elaboration. Use these two to draw your interviewee out further.
- Don't be afraid of silence; give your interviewee time to think about their answer.
- Don't suggest answers.

1

Exploring Disciplinary Perspectives

What's the object? _____

Why is the object important to you?

Discipline: _____

Discipline: _____

Observations

Observations