

There are 5 basic sections you should consider for your research of arts and sciences:

1. Item
2. History and Use of the Item
3. How the item was historically made/produced/constructed/written
4. How your item was made/produced/constructed/written
5. Bibliography

Optional - Conclusions/What I learned/Areas of Future research

Item:

Describe what the judges are looking at – be as specific as you are able this is the topic of your research.

Example:

This is a waschetafel (wash tablet), a handheld tallying device that was used to keep track of clothing to be washed from the Nürnberg (Nuremberg) region of Germany in the late 16th and early 17th Century.

History and Use of Item:

Who, what, when, where, why and how was item used, seen, experienced. Use citations to support your historical content. Use documentation as support for your statements.

Example:

Early washerwomen, just like other trades-people, had a variety of tools with which they worked. These included such items as a bucking tub, pots, soap supplies, and stain removal supplies.

One of these tools is the waschetafel or wash tablet. The surviving examples located in the German National Museum in Nürnberg, are believed to be German in origin. ((Zander-Seidel p.286)

This pictorial tool allowed communication through tally marks made with chalk of what was needing to be washed and what had been washed without the need for literacy or even arithmetic, “as many of the washerwomen tended to be among the lower classes and less educated members of society” (Sim, p. 47)

According to the Textiles curator at the German National Museum, Dr. Zander-Seidel, they believe that the waschetafel was used for both recording what was sent to the laundress as well as by the laundress when she may have outsourced some of the washing to various other women. (Zander-Seidel-email). These surviving remnants were used for several centuries. As clothing changed, there is evidence that items were scratched out and painted over (Germanisches National Museum Nürnberg, p 8) These boards began to be discontinued in the 17th C. (Zander-Seidel p.94)

How the item was historically made:

What materials were used, from where were they sourced. Be specific as to accurate period construction methodology. Make use of your research here, add all appropriate citations. If you are unable to document elements of your item, you could speculate as to period sources.

Example:

A hardwood board was cut to shape approximately 68X42 cm. The board was blackened and then each side was divided into 4 rows. The first and third rows were twice as wide as the second and fourth row. (Zander-Seidel p.285) Then clothing items were painted onto both sides using oil paint. These were not seen to be of great artistic acclaim but were functional and representational. (Germanisches National Museum Nürnberg, p 11).

Blackening may have been done in a variety of methods; they are unable, without destructive testing, to ascertain this element. However there were several known methods for wood blackening in Germany, which were used in this period.

An undated Padua manuscript, perhaps of the 16th or 17th century, gives the following instructions for preparing wood for blackening: When the wood has been polished with burnt pumice stone it must be well rubbed with a coarse cloth and with the said powder, bathing the work with German size that it may be more polished; it must then be cleaned with another rag. (Merrifield, pg. 710)

According to Master Edward le Kervere "Hide glue combined with pumice powder and rubbing sounds like a method of polishing and filling the pores of the wood.

... As to blackening wood: any wood with a high tannin content, oak, walnut, ash, hickory, can be turned black by exposing it to iron ions. The usual formula is to add some vinegar to some water, drop in a piece of steel wool for an hour and flood the surface of the project with this solution."

For additional period blackening recipes, please see appendix A.

How was your item made/constructed?

This is where you can identify your item and explain how you made it. You might find it easier to use a table for comparing your process with period construction. This allows for an easy side-by-side comparison. In this section you can explain why you may have used materials that differ from period materials.

Example:

The table below shows how this item was constructed in period and how I made mine. The only major difference was the blackening agent. I used a modern commercial stain rather than a period stain due to time constraints. I was unable

to use the vinegar and steel to make iron ions to work effectively and ran out of time before I needed to complete this project.

	Period construction	My construction
Wood	Oak	Same
Blackening	Unclear	Minwax ebony stain
Paint	Oil paint	Same
Icons	Period clothing	Same

Bibliography:

This is a list of all of the scholarly sources you used. A bibliography is a list of the scholarly sources you used to get information. Don't know how, use an online bib generator - <http://www.easybib.com/>

Amman, Jost and Hans Sachs. *The Book of Trades (Standebuch)*. Dover Publication, New York, 1973. ISBN0 486 22886 X

Germanisches National Museum Nürnberg, *Anzeiger des Germanischen National Museums*. Nurnburg, 1898 – (facsimile of quarterly booklet produced for supporters of the museum)

Markham, Gervase. *The English Housewife*. McGill-Queens University press Quebec, Canada, 1994. ISBN 0 7735 0582 2

Merrifield, Mary P. (editor/translator). *Medieval and Renaissance Treatises on the Arts of Painting*. Dover Publications, Inc., Mineola, NY, 1967.

Salzman, L.F. *Building in England Down to 1540*. Oxford University Press,

Oxford, 1952 (Special edition for Sandpiper Books Ltd., 1997). Sim, Alison. *The Tudor Housewife*. Gloucestershire, 1996 ISBN 0 7509 1875 6

Zander-Seidel, Jutta. *Textiler Kleidung und Haustextilien in Nurnberg von 1500-1650 Hausrat* Deutscher Kunstverlag. Munchen, 1990. ISBN 3 422 00760 1

Conclusions/What I learned/Areas of Future research

Use pictures when you are able and make sure to add citations to them. Where is the picture from? Did you take the picture or is it from a book or online? If you can add pictures of original pieces, the judges them have more information on which to evaluate your attempt at implementing your research.

Find this handout at <http://www.thehoodedhare.com/research>