

## **Guidelines for Junior Docent Gallery Presentation on European Art (Gallery presentations will take place on March 2, 9, and 16. See sign-up sheets.)**

### **Practicing the use of storytelling on a tour!**

Please follow these guidelines as you prepare your gallery presentation. We will send you **links to videos in which we model telling a story about an object**; please **watch these examples before February 24**. These talks should be given without the use of notes.

1. Your presentation timeframe is 8 minutes; some works of art may be presented in less time.
2. Here are some sources for information about your object: the docent/guide object files in the tour office, the online object files (on [ipevolunteers.org](http://ipevolunteers.org)), the Collections part of the Mia website, and the Mia Reference Library. You may also use other reliable internet sources.
3. Gear your talk to an adult audience with a high school education and no specialized knowledge of art history. Select a level of information and vocabulary that is appropriate for such a group. Define terms that are not generally known.
4. Select a theme that would be used for a tour that includes this object. The theme could relate to one of the following: cultural practices, artistic technique, a visual element, symbolism, etc.
5. Begin your presentation by directing the audience's attention to the object. This might be done by asking a question or directing them to look at a certain aspect of the object. Integrate historical and cultural information with visual information that is appropriate to your theme. Use the theme to determine what type of information you will provide.
6. At some point in your presentation, **share a brief story (2 to 3 minutes)** about the object with your audience. This can be a story about the artist, the subject matter, or the historic context of the object.
7. Incorporate at least three inquiry questions during your presentation. This can include asking the group to describe some aspect of the work.
8. When you have completed your presentation, make a transition to the next object you would select if you were actually doing a complete tour. Make sure the transition relates to your theme. (Your transition can be to any object you like.)

You may incorporate visual aids or other props, if they contribute to our understanding of the object. **You may use an iPad with this presentation.**

Remember that we are all here to support you!

#### **Quote from Leslie Bedford, PhD, on the importance of storytelling:**

“...In sum, stories are the most fundamental way we learn...They teach without preaching, encouraging both personal reflection and public discussion. Stories inspire wonder and awe; they allow a listener to imagine another time and place, to find the universal in a particular, and to feel empathy for others. They preserve individual and collective memory and speak to both the adult and the child.”

(From McKenna-Cress and Kamien, *Creating Exhibitions: Collaboration in the Planning, Development, and Design of Innovative Experiences*, 115.)