

NAME: _____

Adopt-a-Text Project

Please visit your assigned text in Special Collections. Based on your observations, answer the following questions by typing your answers into the spaces provided. You can submit a typed copy on Blackboard or scan your paper copy and upload it to Blackboard.

DESCRIBE THE MEDIA OBJECT

SUBSTRATE

Describe the material from which it was made: bone, pottery, metal, wood, stone, leather, glass, paper, cardboard, cotton, wood, plastic, other material, fiber, plants, etc. Be sure to include all fibers and materials present (especially if you are working on a book)

MEDIA

How are the marks of meaning made? Impression? Recesses? Ink and pen? If the catalogue data does not state the media, use your critical thinking skills. Based on the approximate date of your text, what kind of media do you think was used?

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK: SPECIAL QUALITIES OF THE OBJECT

Describe how it looks and feels: Be very specific about shape, color, texture, weight, movable parts, anything printed, stamped or written on it.
What is this text's size (in feet, inches, or centimeters)

THINK ABOUT OBJECT USE

A. What might the text have been used for?

B. Who might have used the text?

C. Where might the text have been used?

D. When might the text have been used?

WHAT DOES THE MEDIA OBJECT TELL US?

- A. What does it tell us about technology of the time in which it was made and used?
 - B. What does it tell us about the life and times of the people who made it and used it? (Be specific and not general)
 - C. Can you name a similar item today?
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MATERIALS OF THE BOOK

- A. What is the binding of this book? Glue? Thread?
 - B. Do the pages have any marks of previous ownership like marginalia, tears, threads, etc?
 - C. Feel the pages of the book. What is the substrate of this book? Parchment? Vellum? Paper?
 - D. How many pages?
 - E. Are there illustrations in the book? How many? List the page numbers where you locate the illustrations.
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RESPOND

Now that you have Collected Data in Special Collections, Think about how the text or media object you have observed fits into our class lectures and discussions.

In **300 words**, link your media object to the readings and class lectures that we have had about this particular substrate, time period, theory of the page, or anything else that interests you.