

Homework #2: archival description #1

For this homework assignment, you will use digitized archival (primary) materials from one of the following collections:

- [Words and Deeds in American History](#) (Library of Congress)
- [Broadsides & Ephemera](#) (Duke University) – click the date tab
- Any [DocSouth \(Documenting the American South\)](#) collection (UNC)
- Any [Founders Online](#) collection (National Archives)

You will **find** one (1) primary document from **before** 1800 created in North America. You can choose an image, letter, book, diary, receipt, etc.

The goal of this assignment is to introduce you to digitized archival materials and to challenge you to identify an item that relates to the course readings in some way.

You are encouraged to seek assistance from the archivists and librarians at the institutions listed above. You can email or chat with them; it is not necessary to visit the archives.

You will **print** the item you find (if it's multiple pages, you can print just the first page). In 3-4 full, developed paragraphs, you'll **describe** the item *and* its significance. Consider the following questions:

- What is the item? Who created it? When was it created and why? Who was it originally created for?
- What is the item's significance? Why did you choose it? How does it connect to the readings and discussions of this course?
- What did you learn from this assignment? What was your process for finding the item you chose? What, if any difficulties, did you encounter?

This is a more formal, academic description and analysis. Use Standard English and avoid slang. Do not use "I" except when answering the final questions. Include an MLA-formatted header. Include a citation for the archival item you choose. If you quote or paraphrase, include in-text citations. If you need help with the citation, ask an archivist or librarian.

*You **must** turn in the hard copy to me in class; emailed submissions will not be accepted. You **do not** need to turn homework in via Sakai. Late homework will not be accepted. The archival description is a homework assignment and counts as part of the 10% homework grade for the course.*

Type your homework and turn it in at the beginning of class on **February 9, 2017**.

Include the printed page from the item with your typed description.