

## Object Stories

Art and design tell stories to their audiences. Designers try to communicate specific messages, while artists often expect people to respond to their work in personal ways. In this project, you will use 5 objects to tell your audience a story. Decide if you will be a designer and have every viewer understand the same story, or an artist and let people understand your story in their own way.

Adapted from a lesson in *Taking a Line for a Walk, Assignments in Design Education* (Emilia Bergmark, Corinne Gisel & Nina Paim, Spector Books, 2016) from Radim Pelsko (Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam), 2011.

### Materials needed

- 5 objects. These can be anything, but should be able to be moved around (so for example, it might be hard to pick a couch. It would be much easier to pick a fork.)
- A camera
- A piece of paper and something to write with

### **Step 1: Pick your 5 objects.**

They can be anything! Think about color, size, shape, and texture when you are making your choices. Are they all the same color or all different? Are they all circles, or do they all have points? Think about the choices you are making.

### **Step 2: Write down an outline of your story on your paper.**

You can write a story specifically for your objects, or you can write a story that has nothing to do with your objects. It's up to you!

### **Step 3: Arrange your objects into scenes to tell your story.**

Remember, you can only use the 5 objects you picked originally! Once you have a scene arranged, take a picture of it. Then move on to the next one. Create at least 5 scenes, or vignettes, to tell your story.

### **Step 4: Put your scenes in order and share your story with someone.**

You could print out the pictures, you could email them, you could make them into a gif or a movie – share them in any way you'd like. Did they understand it? Where could you make revisions to make your story more clear? Was there something that your audience “read” in your story that you didn't expect?

### **Want to keep going?**

- If you really like your story, you could make a book or movie with your images!
- Create 26 different vignettes, one for each letter of the alphabet. Use your original 5 objects, or find 5 objects that start with each letter (ie. 5 A objects, 5 B objects, etc.)

When you're done with your project, take a picture and share it with us too! You can tag us on social media (@designmuseumchi on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter) or email us at [info@designchicago.org](mailto:info@designchicago.org). We're looking forward to seeing your work!