



Syllabus: Art of Tea in Japan

Created By: Akiko Walley, University of Oregon

Sample In-class Activity Sheets: Week 9

Week 9: Tea Utensils and Accoutrements (+ Wall Text & Presentation Practice)*

GROUP Activity 1: Conveying the Importance of Provenance

The goal of this activity is twofold: (1) Practice collaborating while writing content for a hypothetical wall text (i.e. the equivalent of your proposal introduction) on the importance of provenance in chanoyu; (2) Establish a strategy for your group presentation next week (Week 10) using the content you generate for this activity.

Instruction: Using what you learned in Cort's reading on Chigusa about how a tea utensil accumulates a "history of admiration, ownership, and use" and the centrality of the accoutrements (boxes, bags, trays, strings, etc.) and documents in embodying and visualizing this history, collaborate within your group to write an introduction to the "accumulated history" of the miniature replica of the iridescent (*yōhen*) *tenmoku* bowl named Inaba. <https://www.surugaya.com/en/product/601098964>

Recommended process:

- Spend a few minutes as a group to study the accoutrements and provenance of the original "Inaba" *tenmoku* and the miniature replica and its "accoutrements." Then decide on the most important points you want to convey.
- Split the task among the group and allow each member to spend a few more minutes drafting their part.
- Leave time at the end to regroup to put your draft into a coherent paragraph and edit the wording to make it more accessible.

You are imagining featuring the miniature replica as your star object in your wall text. Your writing should be accessible to non-initiated visitors to the JSMA. There is no specific word limit for this exercise, but realistically speaking, as a wall text, your paragraph should not be longer than 300-350 words. You can write your paragraph on this activity sheet (in the space below), in your notebook, or please feel free to use any device you have and send a copy to me via email (awalley@uoregon.edu).

GROUP+INDIVIDUAL Activity: Lightning Presentation on the Miniature *Tenmoku*

Each group will give a 2-minute presentation on the miniature *tenmoku* and the importance of provenance in chanoyu based on the wall text content you produced earlier. This exercise is to help you figure out a strategy to split up presentation content among the group so that everyone contributes equally.

Because you are all presenting on the same object, please focus your presentation on what your group decided as the most important information to feature and why. Please do your best to present as if you are speaking to a group of museum visitors who know nothing about the *tenmoku* bowl or chanoyu more generally.

Individual Task as an Audience: Listen to other groups' presentations from the perspective of a museum visitor who knows nothing about the *tenmoku* bowl or chanoyu. Please write down your thoughts in your notebook on the following two points:

1. One piece of information that you found to be particularly insightful and made you want to learn more about the bowl or chanoyu practices.
2. One aspect of the presentation you might have done differently to increase clarity or effectiveness. Or if you thought the presentation was superb, one aspect you would like to incorporate into your own presentation method going forward.

GROUP ACTIVITY 2: Map Your Installation Space (preparing to make a diagram)

Use the tools you have at your disposal to take the approximate measurement of the display platforms presently in the Preble/Murphy gallery and make careful notes. Diagram the lighting and other notable "quirks" of your installation space. Take note of other installation equipment available to elevate your smaller pieces. Envision how your pieces would look in the space you selected and discuss concrete strategies to balance the artwork of vastly different sizes, adequately fill the space of the platform you chose, and ensure aesthetic coherence.

Be careful not to touch the glass or bump into displays in the gallery as you do this.