

Dayanara Guzman
Blog Post

My item that I've brought was a heart shaped locket necklace that was passed down from my great grandmother to my mother than on to my sisters and me. My great, great aunt had that necklace throughout her journey to American, a gold plated flower engraved into the front of the locket. This artifact is important to my family because my great great aunt was the first person to travel to America and then the rest of my family traveled. My great great aunt Iris Rozon, was a famous dancer and actor who traveled across the world, pursuing her dream. She was born in the Dominican Republic in April 14, 1939. Ever since she was little she loved to dance, and she's been dancing since she was fifteen. Starting at an early age, she always wanted to show the passion she had for dancing and the beauty of it. Iris is my mom's aunt. I picked my aunt to interview because I found her story very interesting. Since she traveled the world, there are more stories to tell about her life, her adventures and the people she met along her journey.

Events that were occurring during that time period was a tiny Dominican restaurants and nightclub on 162d Street and Broadway, starts jumping at around 1 A.M. "Instantly, the dance floor turns into a steam bath of sweat and cologne. Pressed body to body, dancers undulate from the waist down in a manner that certainly would draw stares in broad daylight, in another part of town" ([McMains 2012](#)) During this time period of 1950s Latin dancing was known as a very spicy and sexy type of dance, New York's Latin night brings out the life of the party, with such "delicious buffet of rhythms and styles, from the breakneck accordion-driven merengue tipico of the Dominican Republic to the gentle Colombian cumbia, a music that lopes along like a mule clip-clopping down a country road". (ibid)

"During the 1950's at least 9,987 Dominicans came to America legally however 93,000 immigrants arrived." (Patricia Pessar's) Iris left her kids in Dominican Republic so she could get things right for her then her kid. She was married to her husband Angel Vasquez for 20 years who was a composition and pianist who made music he was very famous but after a couple of years being together he died from a heart attack and diabetes . When she wanted to have fun she would have a lot of parties and socialize with friends and she was close with. My aunt loved to socialize with people and connect with them on another level. When it came to work and school Iris would go to school and instantly go to work. Iris worked in a factory and a few other little jobs so she could be stable on her own and not live with her aunts anymore. After my aunt lost

her husband she learned to love and enjoy being independent and in her own company. Eventually she brought her kids to America.

What I learned from this experience is that my family is very hard working. I feel as if doing this project was very fun and very informing to learn about the immigrants that are in people's family and their background. By doing this project I have learned to value everything my family members have done. By learning the important traits and things they did to be stable in America, I honor my family and what they did. I'm very thankful that my aunt was able to tell me her journey and be comfortable enough to talk about her past. Talking about your past isn't an easy thing to talk about, especially if you had tragic events happen in your past. Writing this memoir makes me feel very proud to have such a hard working aunt and family all together. I wouldn't be able to do the same thing she did this artifact is important to my family because she was the very first person in my family to come to America.

<https://www.nytimes.com/1992/09/04/arts/the-beat-the-feet-viva-viva.html>

<http://palladium-mambo.com/ballroom.shtml>

Essay Steps

Keeping History Alive

Essential Questions: **Why is this artifact important to me / my family? How does this artifact relate to a specific theme in politics, economics, and/or society in a specific time period in US History?**

- ☐ Decide how you are going to take notes - paper or digital (you can use the chart on the second page of this doc)
- ☐ Make a place in your notes to log EVERY SOURCE you use.
- ☐ When you take notes put EVERYTHING YOU COPY directly IN QUOTES, otherwise you need to bullet-point summarize in your own words. Do not copy full sentences without quotes.
- ☐ Use a reliable **academic** sources to learn about the time period:
 - <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-now> (Browse by Time Period)
 - <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/> (Search by "ERA")
- ☐ Use 2-3 MORE reliable academic sources to learn about the artifact and connected issues / events, like we did in class for your show and tell slides and for research on the Stonewall riots :
 - Check in with Ms. Strassler to verify your sources as you work on your outline and first draft.

❑ Take BASIC Notes

❑ AND FINALLY - The Big Question - What is your thesis?

After looking at the fashion of the time period - **How do you see the influence of political and economic changes, or the influence of certain social / cultural shifts affecting your family or the person who is the source of your artifact?** Put your thesis in a bold statement that will be part of your introductory paragraph and supported with facts/details, and your analysis of those facts in your paragraphs. (See [SAMPLES](#))

WRITING IT -

Intro - What is the hook you want to start with to get your readers into your essay?

(A family story, a personal observation)

Then, can you make that hook lead smoothly into your thesis?

What key points will you make to support that thesis in the following paragraphs?

Key turning points in history

Relationship between history & your family, this type of artifact, etc.

Body Paragraphs -

- One (or more) Paragraphs on the family story that is connected to the artifact
- One (or more) Paragraphs on the TIME PERIOD / THEME that goes with it

So I would say two or three body paragraphs TOTAL. Just make sure each body paragraph is on one topic, don't go all over the place in the middle of the essay.

Conclusion -

Biggest thing(s) you have learned by working with your artifact and doing this research.

MAKE SURE YOU LIST YOUR SOURCES at the end of your blog essay!!! (Seniors - MLA/APA format)

And if you can insert a picture into your essay, that would be nice because it is your BLOG POST for our web site.

Worksheet for Research & Writing

My Artifact:

Heart locket necklace

Family story:

My great great aunt who was the first one to come to America passed down that necklace to my mother and all the other girls in the family

Associated time periods / themes / events / famous Americans / etc: 1939

(this is the stuff you need to research and learn more about)

Source (url)	Facts I got from the source	How these facts connect back to my artifact / family / culture / history
http://palladium-mambo.com/ballroom.shtml	Places where my aunt might have danced	They connect because my aunt wore that necklace throughout her whole journey coming to America
I interviewed her myself	Read my blog to find out more ;)	

Thesis - **Why is this artifact important to me / my family? How does this artifact relate to a specific theme in politics, economics, and/or society in a specific time period in US History?**