

This packet filled out by \_\_\_\_\_

Please add your initials or other personal identifier to the upper right corner of each sheet. This packet will be separated later.

You are about to participate in a project called The Shallows. The Shallows is an interdisciplinary interactive project about automation, identity, and permanence.

Many of our visually-conspicuous social practices happen on top of surveillance infrastructure. This could describe how instagram posts are gathered to build advertising profiles of individuals via digital means. This could also describe how the collective identity of a city includes the visual records of interactions between people, whether they are captured by the feed of a security camera or on the clipboard of a census taker. In all of these cases, it is the authentic gestures, images, and messages of individuals that are repurposed for capitalistic means. The surveillance infrastructure that makes this possible is contributing to a relationship between identity and mass production. Practices which contribute to the permanent formation of identity in people (collecting, image-making, recording) are instrumentalized in a very momentary way to serve the materiel of the present. The Shallows is a machine that strives to recontextualize the components of this interaction in order to make this relationship strange. In this project, some of the flows between production and identity are being reversed or redirected.

At the heart of this project is an array of 20-30 objects, arranged in a grid. These objects have not been identified yet, and they could be most anything. This array will be presented in a way that is physically accessible to visitors, who will have the opportunity to examine the order of the objects and to rearrange them. Through simple moving, grouping, ungrouping, and shifting

of these objects, visitors to the machine can create encoded expressions concealed within the array- these visitors will then have the option of attaching a summary or description of their expression.

Your work today will be used to choose some objects to populate the array. No single individual has full responsibility for the array, and the final number of objects contributed can be as many or as few as makes sense for you. This packet contains a set of exercises for prompting this selection process.

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#### Constraints

There are some limitations on what kind of objects can be included in the Array. These limitations are called constraints. Many are common-sensical, such as preventing the inclusion of firearms or bodily fluids. All constraints are listed below:

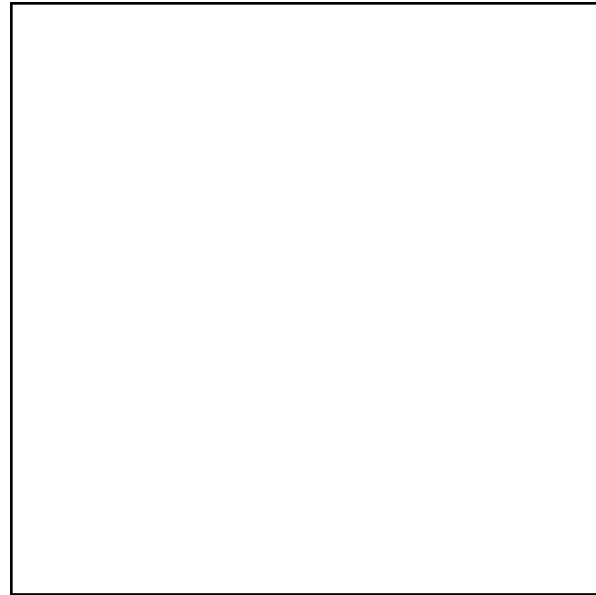
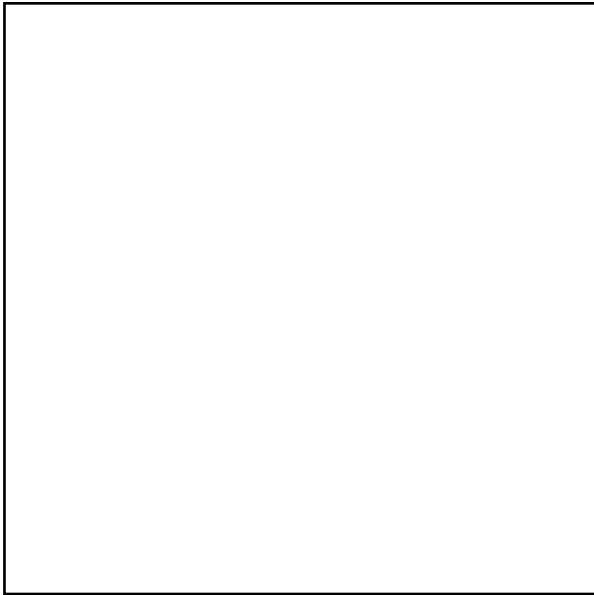
No operational or formerly-operational firearms can be included. (Props are allowed.)

No bodily fluids can be included.

No object weighing more than 50lbs can be included. Exceptions to this rule are possible with some negotiation.

Objects can only be included if they fit inside a 36" cube of space. Objects with protruberances that extend just outside of this size but are generally small otherwise are eligible.

In the boxes below, draw and name two objects that seem to describe one another, just by existing. An example might be the way the sand on a beach is shaped by water, and also infers the presence of the water. On the line below, describe the relationship between the two objects in a few words.



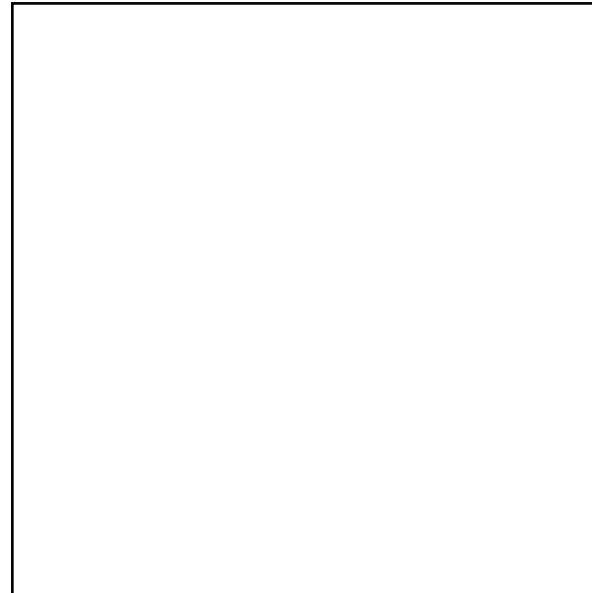
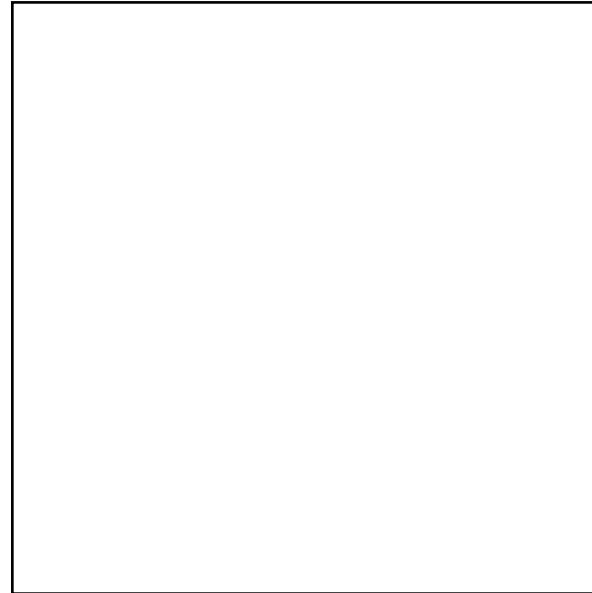
In the boxes below, draw and name two objects that can only function as a group. They may have a literal function or a symbolic one.

What is the function of this group of objects? Try to describe it in a few words on the line below.

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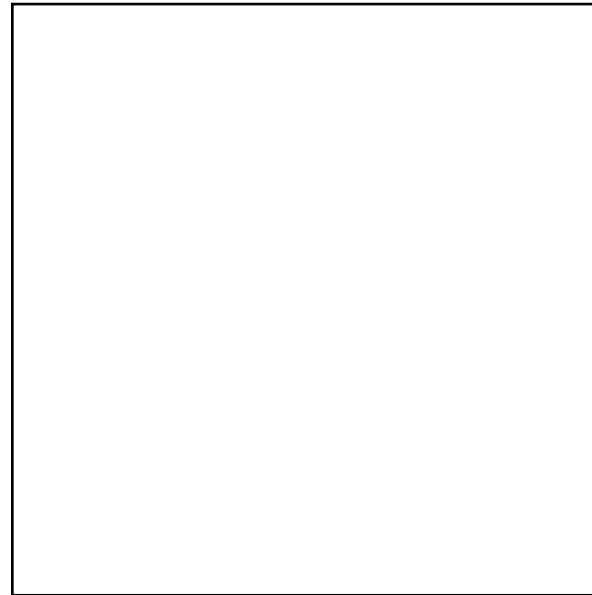
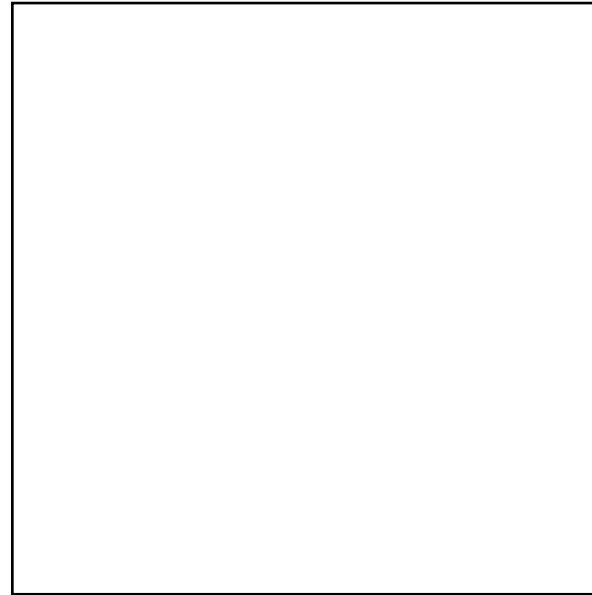
Draw and name two objects that can “stand in” for one another. An example of this relationship might be the way a copy of a document can be used in place of an original- another example might be the way a piece of data, such as a date of birth, might be used in place of a person. On the line below, describe this *representational relationship*- are your objects *copies* of one another? Are they *substitutes* of one another? Find the word that most closely describes this relationship.

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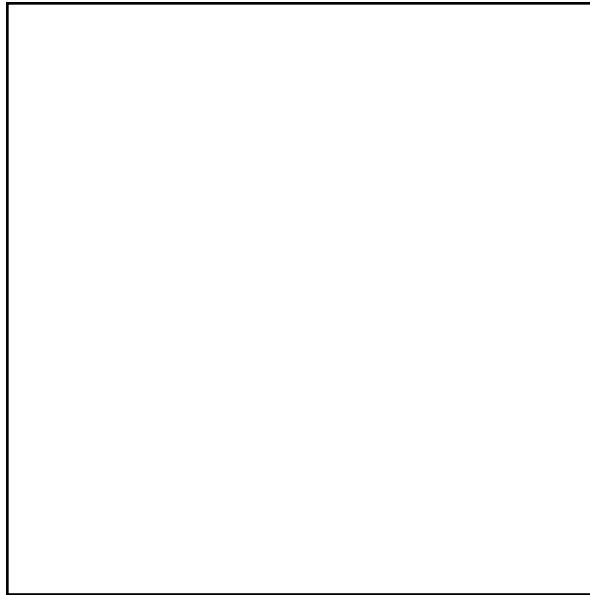


Recall the word or words you wrote in the previous exercise, describing a *representational relationship*. Copy them onto the line below. Next, think of a new pair of objects which have a similar or identical representational relationship, which might be described using the word or words you copied. Draw and name those objects in the boxes to the right.

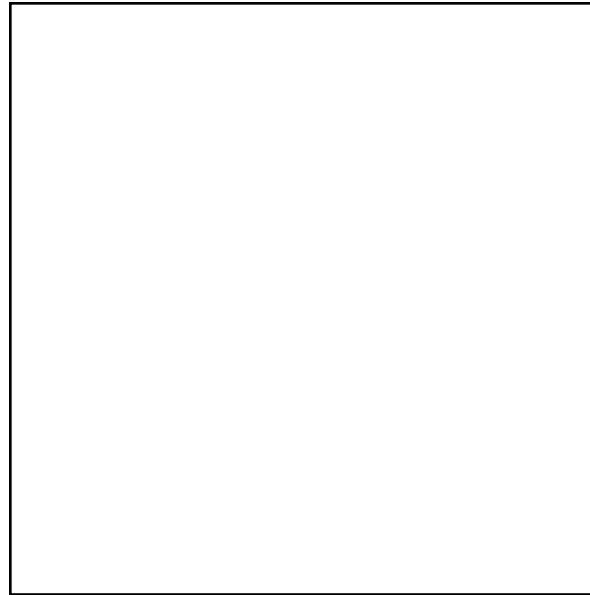
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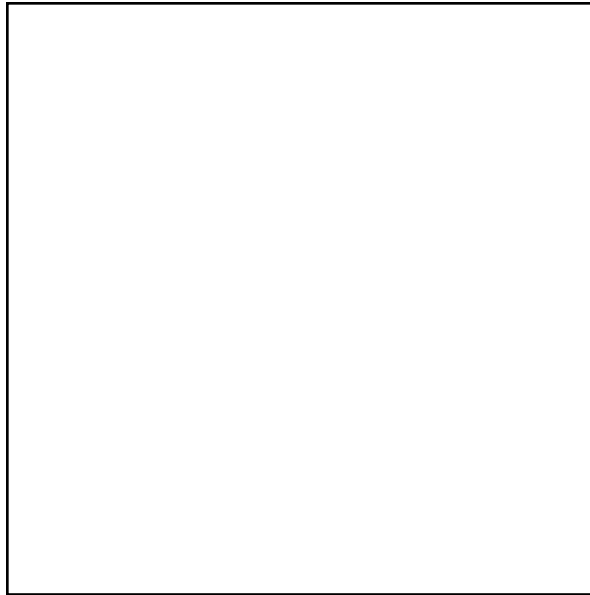
Draw and name, in the box below,  
an object does not exist anymore,  
or is no longer accessible to you.  
When you're finished, unfold the  
folded portion of this sheet and  
move to the exercise you find there.



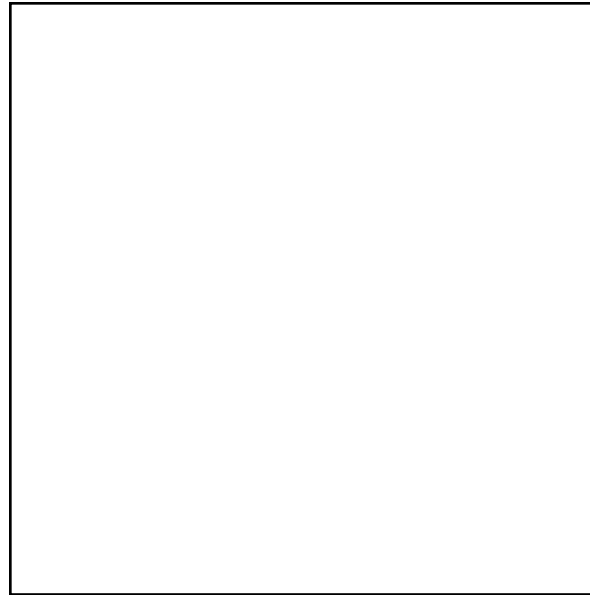
Think about the previous exercise.  
Contemplating the object you  
chose, what currently-existing  
object is most similar to it? Draw  
and name it in the box below.



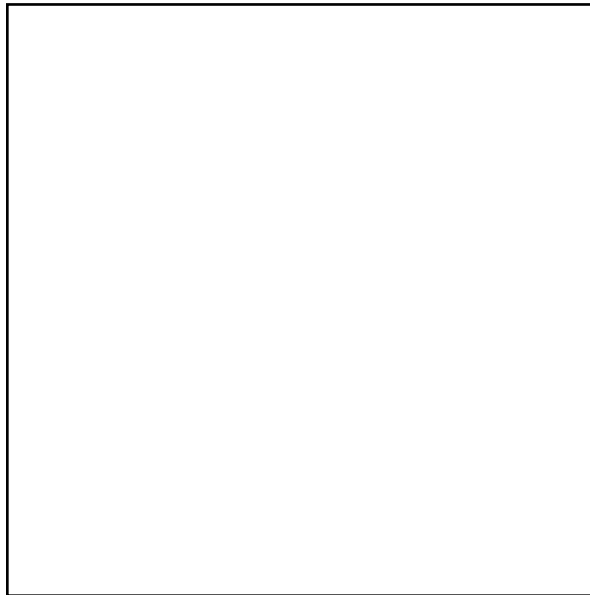
Draw and name, in the box below,  
a hypothetical or imaginary object  
that best represents the moment of  
time we occupy.



What real object best represents  
the moment of time we occupy  
*by being absent from it or by being  
present in it in a new way?*  
Draw and name it in the box below.



Draw and name an object in the box below that you acknowledge for its *abundance*. This object might be something problematic which is notable for being ubiquitous. On the other hand, it might be something beneficial that is reassuringly easy to access. What kind of abundance is represented by this object? Is it common, overwhelming, or are we inundated by it? Try to find a word which best describes the abundance of the object and write it in below.



Similar to the other exercise on this sheet, draw and name an object in the box which you acknowledge for its *scarcity or rarity*. What kind of scarcity or rarity does the object have? Is it an expensive, economically scarce item, or is it something that exists in many places but is rarely seen? Try to find a word which best describes the scarcity of the object and write it in below.

