ACTIVITIES
Ask your students to visit Occupy the Museum during the four occupations (with (u)ntitled: Wignall Art Organization, The Chaffey Review, CCFem and One Book/One College) and compare and contrast the different hands-on activities and events each group has organized. How are they different? How are they similar?

Visit Occupy the Museum and participate in an activity or event.

Create a scavenger hunt where you ask your students to identify works of art and objects that connect to a theme or concept that you’re currently studying. Request an example of a successful scavenger hunt from the Wignall Museum to use as inspiration or contact an ASK ART: ADVOCATE for assistance in creating one for your own use in the classroom!

Joe Suzuki often uses familiar co-opted Japanese iconography in his work, such as the Fortune Cat and Cup o’ Noodles. Ask your students to create a drawing of an icon or to write an essay or poem from their personal life that has cultural and personal relevance.

The LA Art Girls use the structure of the exquisite corpse to create their video work. Create your own exquisite corpse with a group of artists or classmates using paper and pencil, film, or prose.

Compose your own resistance song.

Create your own creative journal or zine while considering the Chaffey Review’s publications. What would you include in your zine and why? Invite friends to participate.

Create a short film inspired by a classic film. Work on the project collaboratively.

Perform one of the compositions found in the People’s Microphony Songbook. Discuss the dissention expressed in the compositions.

Create (draw or digitally manipulate) your own codes and symbols that represent your experiences, like Ehren Tool does on his untitled cups.
QUESTIONS for VIEWING

Given the artworks and objects on display, what do you think it means to occupy something? Is this occupation in response to something? If so, what?

Occupy the Museum reimagines the museum as an experimental place. Do you see museums as places that encourage questioning or do you see them as places of expertise and learning? Why?

What connections might be made between a work of art on view and the 2013-2014 One Book/One College book selection The Things They Carried? What connections might be made between a work of art and a literary or musical perspective?

In Ehren Tool’s installation of cups, each displays multiple images. The images may depict symbols of war, sex, childhood, or various other codes. What is the significance of these images?

The LA Art Girls created a collaborative video work using a method called exquisite corpse, by which a collection of words or images is collective assembled as each collaborator adds to a composition in sequence, either by following a rule or by being allowed to see the end of what the previous person contributed. The LA Art Girls pushed this strategy by using it to create a video work by appropriating the well-known Kubrick film, Dr. Strangelove. Do you think it’s a legitimate strategy? Why or why not?

The concept of responding to an idea – a film, a political agenda or perspective – is key in the works on view in Occupy the Museum. It is also important in the occupation of the museum by OBOC, CCFem, (u)ntitled, and The Chaffey Review. Why might this be significant?

Elana Mann’s work posits that our voices can act as an instrument in political discourse. Consider this in your own experience. Have you ever used your voice as a political tool?

Joe Suzuki explores the idea of hybridity. What does this mean and how do you contend with cultural fusion in your personal or professional life?

Which artworks in the exhibition are most memorable to you? Why?

What is the significance of the activities and events that are scheduled during Occupy the Museum? What is the relevance to the concept of political action?

ESSAY PROMPTS

Consider the title of the exhibition and program, Occupy the Museum. How would you title the exhibition if you were the curator? Defend your revisited title in a well-developed essay with analysis of the art work.

Write a well-researched essay on the origins of the Occupy Movement.

Elana Mann’s work explores sound and the human voice through her The People’s Microphony Songbook. The piece is also a publication that you are free for viewers to take, allowing you the chance to express your own voice through the compositions of artists, musicians, composers and writers in North America, Mexico and Europe. Discuss the many ways this piece expands our understanding of collaboration and the use of the voice as a political tool.

What is the significance of seeing Occupy the Museum’s four works of art in relation to the occupations of One Book/One College, CCFem, (u)ntitled: The Wignall Art Organization, and The Chaffey Review? Do the works of art relate to the missions of those organizations? Why or why not?

Ehren Tool, the artist who is a veteran of the first Iraq war, has said that he “just makes cups.” Do you agree with his assessment? What else do you think he is doing with his art work? Why do you think this?

One of the ideas of occupation is to carve out a place for one’s self and one’s own ideals. What ideals/values are being represented here with these art works? How do you know this?

In thinking about war, we often idealize or even romanticize it. How might these works of art move us from our own naive beliefs of war and toward a clearer and more realistic understanding of war’s consequences?

The LA Art Girls are a group of female artists that create work independently and as a collective. What might be the significance of the fact they’re cooperating together on creative projects? Why do you think working collaboratively might be beneficial to the artists?

The LA Art Girls take an iconic film, Dr. Strangelove, and create their own interpretation of the film. Why do you think they chose Dr. Strangelove? What is the importance or value of the LA Art Girls working collaboratively on this and their other projects?