

## Artifact and Archival Analysis

Get into groups and review the archive of letters to the governor together and then answer the 3 set part of questions below. Spend about 10 minutes on each section and then when everyone is done, we will break into a class discussion about our findings.

### Part 1

Analyze the subject matter in each letter. What concerns are the individuals writing to the Governor about?

How are there financial concerns present both personally and civically?

How are there concerns related to women's right?

How are there concerns related to health?

What other concerns related to oil can you think of are being presented to the Governor?

Think of some of the ways the Governor can help. If he puts his political support behind a concern, he can foster cultural, civil, economical change. How can he take up issues and create policies to resolve them? We do not have the Governor's replies, so conjecture can impose or create narratives; however, are their implications in the letters already of concerns being ignored?

## Part 2

Next, analyze the artifacts.

How does visualization of the document and its penmanship help extract what voices are heard or silent? Look at the handwriting. Who might have written it?

Look at the grammar and vocabulary? What may have been their education level?

Who are they speaking for? Themselves or someone else? If the writer is speaking for someone else, how do they refer to and describe that individual?

What possible power relations are present?

## Part 3

Finally, analyze the construction of the archive.

The digital archive preserves the image of the letters but what might be lost in not being able to physically examine the actual document?

For example, it is a common practice for a woman to spray a letter intended for her significant other with her perfume so that it smells like her, as the sense of smell invokes her presence more strongly.