

## Museum Proposal – A Sample

Following this page is a sample Museum Proposal that will serve as a model for your own proposal.

Note that it is in MLA format, has a clear focus and some concrete detail, has an initial overall design with some thoughts on what goes in each area of the museum, and has a Works Cited page that relates specifically to just one unique-and-interesting “thing” (exhibit) in your museum. Yes, you will be doing research for many things in your museum, but if you have looked ahead to the research paper, you know that it requires you to look at just one particularly-interesting area of your museum (something that has a surprising history or that explores a significant idea, for example) that you will develop into a 4-8-page paper.

DO NOT just jot down some unconsidered idea, like “I want to do a museum of make-up.” Why? What is the point? Why is this significant? How are you narrowing it? What surprising element of “civilization” are you showcasing?

So your proposal needs to contain the following:

- The unique focus of your museum needs to be explained in some detail (Coffee Museum is non-specific, but Museum of Convoluted Coffee-Brewing Contraptions is nicely focused).
- Why you are looking at these “things” (not because “I like them” but because they reflect WHAT element civilization and HOW?); put this in the context of Station Eleven. This “point” of your museum is its mission statement.
- Explain how you are going to separate out different exhibits into categories (grouped into different rooms or spaces or displays).
- Look ahead to your research paper which will focus on JUST ONE ATTRACTION or EXHIBIT or THING (or small display) in your museum. It should be a thing that has in interesting or surprising or controversial or trend-changing history that you can explore in great detail.
- You need a rough sketch of your floorplan that shows how you are separating your “things” into some sort of logical categories (a regional Guatemalan cooking museum might have rooms associated with different regions in Guatemala that have distinctly-different cooking techniques, apparatus, recipes, etc.). *NOTE: the floor plan can go before or after the Works Cited page—your choice ☺*
- You need an MLA-8 format Works Cited page for just one (special) exhibit in your museum. One source should be a book, and the minimum number of sources is three.

### **SPEND TIME AND THOUGHT ON THIS.**

This should showcase not only your ability to focus on an unusual, fascinating, thought-provoking topic; it should also demonstrate your creativity and your practical decision making.

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English 102

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### Museum Proposal

Civilization, according to Clark in *Station Eleven*, is marked by the many things that people have spent thought, time, and effort creating, but not all of those creations are successful. The mission of The Museum of Failed Inventions is to showcase some of the most ambitious attempts (and failures) that people have made to make their ideas part of mainstream civilization and to show that although not all ideas are as practical or accessible as others, even in failure humans demonstrate their ingenuity and creativity.

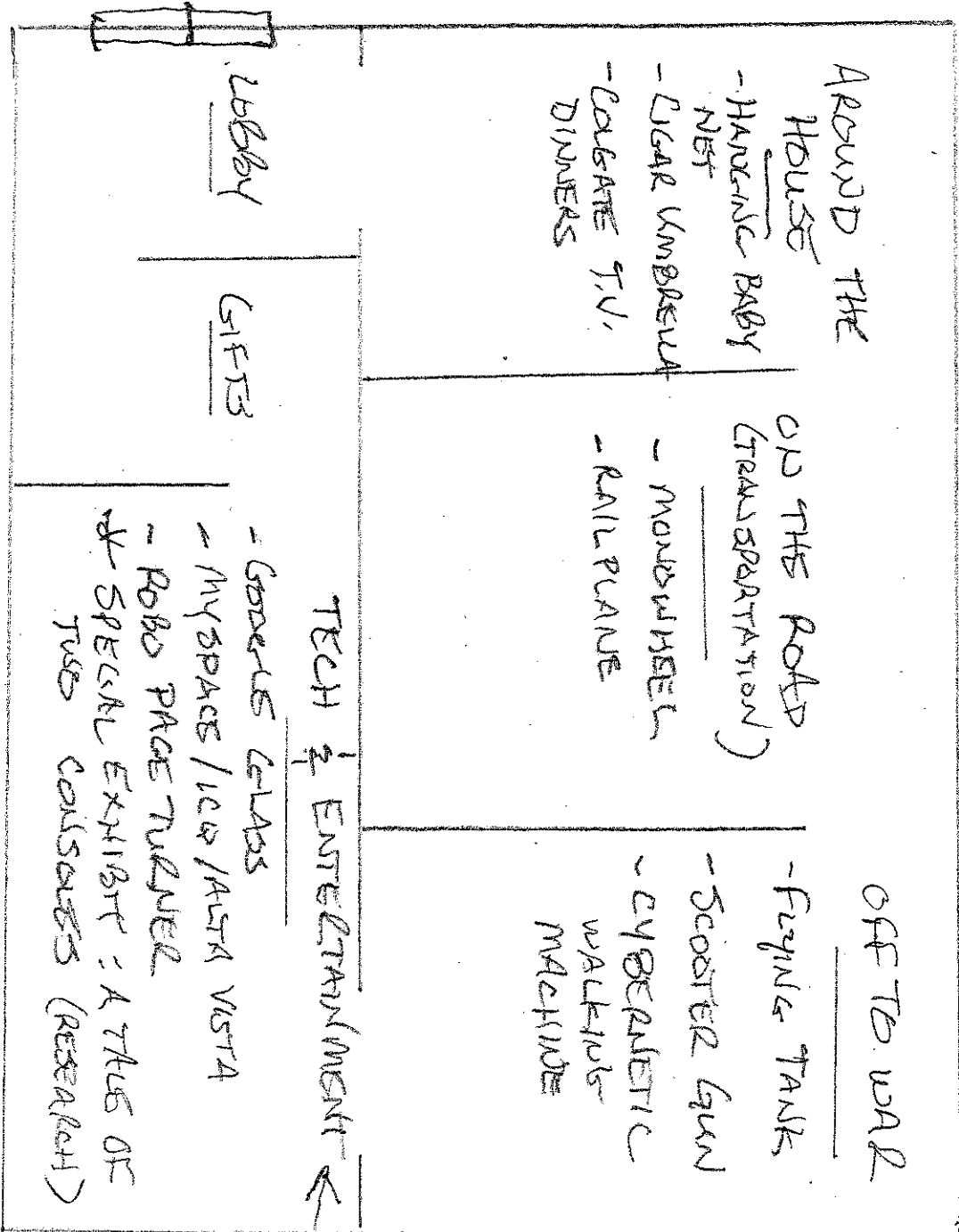
There will be several rooms with actual artifacts and, in the case of larger and near-impossible-to-acquire inventions, large visual displays (pictures, advertisements, videos). Each room will represent a different category of inventions (Around the House, Transportation, Wartime Inventions, and so on), and there will be several representative items for each category.

Like Clark, my job will be to put the different items in context, so next to each display there will be detailed text explaining the unique history of the items, the role the inventor hoped they would fill, and the reasons they failed to catch on. Although all of these will require me to do research, I will focus my main research on one exhibit that I will call A Tale of Two Consoles. This will show two of the most colossal failures in technology and gaming history—Mattel's Intellivision and the Sega Dreamcast gaming systems.

Attached is a quick plan showing an overview of my museum and the different spaces. Following that is the start of a Works Cited page showing sources for my main research paper.

# MUSEUM OF FAILED INVENTIONS

(ROUGH SKETCH OF POSSIBLE FLOORPLANS  
w/ A FEW REPRESENTATIVE DISPLAY ITEMS)



## Works Cited

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