Protocol for Interacting with Docents

Before the visit, the instructor informs the docent that our class is interested in

• access for all, including people of all genders, races, classes, sexualities, abilities, and religions

• a critical perspective of museum exhibitions that includes how colonialism and imperialism have affected museum acquisitions and collections

• contemporary interactive museum practices and community engagement strategies

During the visit, if the docent shows disrespect to the art, history, and/or cultures of people whose works are featured in an exhibition, instructor and students can respectfully interrupt the tour with questions that can serve to raise the consciousness of the docent. Questions should take a diffusing and neutralizing approach.

In deciding whether or not to interrupt, each person should consider if it would be better to wait until the tour ends and then suggest and help compose a follow up message in writing to the docent. Though it is recommended that the instructor make the final judgment call here, students should have major input and may decide on their own that they need to interrupt.