

Exercise Instruction Sheet: What's in Your Bag?

Purpose:

This exercise illustrates: 1) how difficult it can be to remember and document personal belongings **after they are suddenly removed or stored, and 2) why documenting belongings before a sweep occurs can be so important.**

Step 1 — Choose a “Bag”

Think about a “bag” you use regularly. Examples include:

- A purse
- A backpack
- A work bag
- A car center console
- A desk drawer

Choose something you believe you know well. **Do not look inside yet.**

Step 2 — Imagine The Scenario

Imagine that the City has just conducted a sweep of your encampment.

All bags and belongings were taken and placed into storage.

Now you must **identify and claim your property.**

To do that, you must **prove which bag and belongings are yours.**

Step 3 — Write Your List

On a piece of paper, **list everything currently inside your “bag.”** Remember, no peeking!

For each item, include as much detail as possible and be specific.

Try to include details such as:

- Brand or manufacturer
- Color
- Size
- Quantity

- Where you got it
- Approximate cost
- Any identifying marks or damage

Example:

Instead of writing “**pen,**” write “Black Pilot G2 pen with blue ink and cracked clip.”

Step 4 — Check Your Bag

Now that your list is complete, open your bag and compare it with your list.

- How many items did you forget?
- How detailed were your descriptions?

Reflection Questions

Consider the following:

- How easy or difficult was it to remember everything?
- How would you feel being asked to document all of your personal belongings?
- How would you feel if you had to prove ownership after a sweep — relying only on memory?
- How would you feel if anything not on your list now belongs to the City?