Book Soaking Experiment Grading Rubric — 100 Points

Criterion	Excellent	Proficient	Developing	Incomplete	Points
1. Pre-Flood Documentation	Thoroughly records appearance, smell, texture, page color, condition, legibility, estimated weight, and selected sentence; includes clear pre-flood photos.	Records most required observations and includes photos.	Observations are brief or missing several required details; photos limited.	Minimal or missing pre-flood documentation.	**15**
2. Experimental Procedure & Documentation	Clearly documents submersion, 24-hour soaking period, removal, and 48-hour drying period; follows directions carefully and records changes throughout the process.	Follows the procedure with minor omissions in documentation.	Procedure is completed but documentation is inconsistent or incomplete.	Major steps are missing or poorly documented.	**15**
3. Salvage Plan & 1927 Historical Context	Thoughtfully explains a drying/salvage strategy and clearly distinguishes between resources available today and resources likely available in 1927 Mississippi; demonstrates strong historical reasoning.	Provides a reasonable salvage plan and some comparison to 1927 conditions.	Salvage plan is present but historical comparison is limited or superficial.	Little or no discussion of salvage strategy or historical context.	**15**
4. Observation & Data Journal Quality	Journal contains detailed, specific, chronological observations throughout all stages; records changes in smell, texture, shape, readability, moisture, weight, and drying progress.	Journal is complete with clear observations at most stages.	Journal contains some observations but lacks detail, chronology, or consistency.	Journal is very limited or missing.	**15**
5. Photographic Documentation	Photos clearly document pre-flood, soaking, post-removal, drying, and final condition; images meaningfully support written observations.	Photos document most stages and are generally clear.	Photos are limited, unclear, or omit important stages.	Few or no useful photographs submitted.	**10**
6. Final Condition Analysis	Carefully evaluates the book after drying, including smell, texture, page accessibility, sentence legibility, surface effects, weight change, and overall condition.	Evaluates most required final-condition characteristics.	Final analysis is brief or missing multiple required observations.	Little or no final analysis provided.	**10**
7. Connection to Primary Sources & Flood Damage	Clearly explains how the experiment illustrates risks flooding poses to analog records and why damage to primary sources can affect historical understanding of human experience.	Makes a clear connection between the experiment, flood damage, and preservation of primary sources.	Connection is present but underdeveloped.	Little or no connection to primary sources or course objectives.	**10**

Criterion	Excellent	Proficient	Developing	Incomplete	Points
8. Reflection & Interpretation	Provides thoughtful reflection on what was learned, what was surprising, limitations of the experiment, and how water damage can affect historical narratives and disaster memory.	Reflection demonstrates clear understanding of the experiment and its implications.	Reflection is brief, mostly descriptive, or lacks interpretation.	Reflection is minimal or missing.	**5**
9. Organization, Completeness & Submission	Journal and photos are well organized, clearly labeled, easy to follow, complete, and submitted on time.	Mostly organized and complete with minor issues.	Some materials are disorganized, unlabeled, incomplete, or late.	Submission is substantially incomplete or difficult to evaluate.	**3**
10. Participation in Class Discussion	Arrives prepared and contributes specific observations and thoughtful reflection during discussion.	Participates appropriately and references the experiment.	Limited participation or preparation.	Does not participate or is unprepared.	**2**
				Total	**100**