

Primary Source Analysis Graphic Organizer

Directions: Use the following graphic organizer to dissect a primary source. Begin with Step 1, which will have you look at the foundation or basics of the source. As you move through each step, you will think more critically about the document and what it is portraying. Each step builds upon the last, so you are encouraged to take your time on each step before continuing to the next.

<p>Step 1. Meet the document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What kind of document are you viewing? A letter? A map? A poster? A photo?• Does the document have a title?• What do you notice about the document?• How would you describe the document to someone who couldn't see it?	
<p>Step 2: Observe the parts of the document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In this item do you see recognizable people, places, or things?• Does the item have shape, color, texture, weight, age, or movable parts?	

<p>Step 3: Try to make sense of it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Where is this item from? When is it from? Who created it? Why was it created?● What was happening in history at the time this document was created?● Does the item have a specific use or purpose? What evidence from the document tells you this?● What does this item tell you about the people who made it and used it?	
<p>Step 4: Use it as historical evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Does this document seem to align with a particular theme in this time period?● Does it lend itself to one group's perspective over another?● Do the contents of this document only affect a specific group of individuals?	
<p>Step 5: Continue questioning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● After reading the source, what questions do you have?● What primary sources will you search for to find answers to these questions?● Are there secondary sources that already begin to answer some of your questions?	