

Primary Source Analysis

1. Identify the source:

- **What** is the nature of the source?

- **Who** created this source, and what do I know about them?

- **When** was the source produced?

- **Where** was the source produced?

2. Contextualize the Source:

- What do you know about the **historical context** for this source?

- What do I know about how the **creator** of this source fits into that historical context?

- **Why** did the person who created the source do so?

3. Explore the Source:

- What **factual information** is conveyed in this source?

- What **opinions** are related in this source?

- What is **implied** or conveyed unintentionally in the source?

- What is **not said** in this source?

- What is **surprising** or **interesting** about the source?

- What do I **not understand** in this source?

4. Analyze the Source:

- How does the creator of the source **convey information to make their point**?

- How is the world described in the source **different from my world**?

- How might **others at the time** have reacted to this source?

5. Evaluate the Source:

- How does this source compare to **other primary sources**?

- How does this source compare to **secondary source accounts**?

- What do you **believe** and **disbelieve** from this source?

- What do you **still not know** – and where can you find that information?
