

Primary Source Worksheet

How to analyze written sources.

1. Title of the source.
2. Author.
3. What is the subject?
4. Why is the author writing? What is the intent?
5. When is the time period?
6. What can we learn from the source?

How to analyze visual sources¹.

1. **Pre-read.** Do you know where/when/by whom the item was created? If you don't have enough information, make an "educated guess".
2. **Take inventory.** List absolutely everything you can see in the visual sources with as much detail as possible.
3. **Summarize** the scene the illustration depicts.
4. **Analyze** and put together everything you have observed about the source including who created it, when and where. Does it fit the working hypothesis or challenges it? Does it raise further questions?

¹ Designed by Catherine Denial, Knox College (IL)