

Analyzing Primary Sources**Reference Guide**

Directions: Analyze the source and answer the questions provided in each column. There may be some questions that you won't be able to answer, and there may be some information that you will add that isn't being specifically asked for. That is alright! For the "Reflect" column, be sure that you include evidence as to how you came to your conclusions. Your analysis should be done on a piece of notebook paper. For more info on primary sources go to www.loc.gov.

Maps

Observe	Reflect	Question
<p>Describe what you see. What do you notice first? What size and shape is the map? What on the map looks strange? Describe anything that looks like it does not belong on a map. What place or places does the map show? What words do you see?</p>	<p>Why do you think this map was made? Who do you think the audience was for this map? How do you think this map was made? What does this map tell you about what the people who made it knew and what they didn't?</p> <p><i>Be sure that you include evidence from the map that leads you to your conclusions. (Example: "I think the source was letter from a soldier writing home during war because it said "Dear Mother" at the top, and it said "Sgt. Fields" at the bottom. The letter describes him being in Germany.)</i></p>	<p>What do you wonder about... Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?</p>

Audio/Sound Recordings

Observe	Reflect	Question
<p>Describe what you hear. What do you notice first? If you hear any voices, can you understand what is being sung or said? Does it sound like an interview or a conversation? Are there any background noises? Does it sound like a studio recording or just "off the street"? If the recording is musical do you know the song, or do you recognize any instruments? What other details can you hear?</p>	<p>What was the purpose of this recording? Who do you think recorded it? Was it the same person who was being recorded? Who would be interested in hearing this? What was happening at the time it was recorded? What kind of equipment was used for the recording? Do you like what you hear? If it is musical, could you dance to it? What can you learn from listening to this recording?</p> <p><i>Be sure that you include evidence from the source that leads you to your conclusions (See "Maps" for an example.)</i></p>	<p>What do you wonder about... Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?</p>

Written Documents/Printed Texts

Observe	Reflect	Question
<p>Describe what you see. What do you notice first? Is there any text you can read? What does it say (generally)? Describe anything you see on the pages besides words, such as images or decorations. How is the text and other information arranged on the page? Describe anything about this text that looks strange or unfamiliar. What other details can you see?</p>	<p>What was the purpose of this text? Who created it? Who do you think was its audience? Can you tell anything about what was important at the time it was made? What tools and materials were used to create it? What is the larger story or context within which it was printed? What can you learn from examining this? If someone created this today, what would be different?</p> <p><i>Be sure that you include evidence from the source that leads you to your conclusions (See “Maps” for an example.)</i></p>	<p>What do you wonder about... Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?</p>

Photographs and Prints

Observe	Reflect	Question
<p>Describe what you see. What do you notice first? What people and objects are shown? How are they arranged? What is the physical setting? What, if any, words do you see? What other details can you see?</p>	<p>Why do you think this image was made? What’s happening in the image? When do you think it was made? Who do you think was the audience for this image? What tools were used to create this? What can you learn from examining this image? What’s missing from this image? If someone made this today, what would be different? What would be the same?</p> <p><i>Be sure that you include evidence from the source that leads you to your conclusions (See “Maps” for an example.)</i></p>	<p>What do you wonder about... Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?</p>