

Analyzing a Primary Source Worksheet

Name _____

Primary sources are portals to the past. By observing what is happening in a photograph or reading a letter, speech, poster, etc., one can realize that history is made from real life experiences. Fill out this worksheet, answering the questions in detail, to analyze a primary source.

Source Type:

Source Date:

Source Title:

Who wrote/created the source? Was it a neutral party or did the person have opinions or interests that might influence what was recorded?

Is this a first-hand account of the event or is it a report of what others saw and heard? Was the source created through a spur-of-the-moment act or was it a thoughtful, deliberate process?

For whom was the source created? Was the source created for personal use or for an audience? Was the source meant to be public or private?

What is the purpose of the source? Was it meant to inform, persuade, or entertain?

Give a brief summary of what is happening in the source.