

Primary Source Analysis Guide to Historical Thinking: Print Documents

1. Identify the Document

Author(s) or source _____
Title _____
Date _____
Type of Document _____

2. Analyze the Document

Main idea of the document _____

Relationship to other documents (How does the content relate to the 1st-/2nd-/
and/or 3rd-order documents?) _____

Preceding conditions that motivated the author _____

Intended audience and purpose _____

Biases of the author _____

Questions to ask the author _____

3. Historical Context

Important people, events and ideas at the time of the document
Local/Regional: people, events, and ideas of the time _____

National: people, events, and ideas of the time _____

World: people, events, and ideas of the time _____

Conclusions about local/regional, national, and world context at the time _____

4. Identify the Habit of Mind and Vital Theme and Narrative Represented

Habit of Mind _____
The way you used this Habit of Mind to analyze the document _____

Vital Theme and Narrative _____
Evidence the document represents this Vital Theme and Narrative _____

Evidence the document relates to other documents (1st-/2nd-/3rd-order) through
this Vital Theme and Narrative _____

5. Relationship to a Discipline in the Social Sciences/Social Studies

Discipline _____

Evidence of relationship _____

NCSS Theme _____

Evidence of relationship _____