ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

Use this worksheet with a primary source. Not all questions will apply to every document.

1. What type of document is this? ________________________________________________
2. What is the general subject matter of this document? _____________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

3. What is the date of the document? ____________________________________________
4. Who is the author/creator of the document? ____________________________________

5. What was this person’s connection to the subject matter? Was this person neutral, or did he/she have opinions or interests that might have influenced what was written?

__________________________________________________________________________

6. Who was the intended audience for the document? Was it meant to be public or private?

__________________________________________________________________________

7. When was the information in the document recorded—during the event, directly afterward or much later?

8. Can you find an example of opinion in the document? If so, list it.

__________________________________________________________________________

9. Can you find examples of biased language in the document? If so, write them here.

__________________________________________________________________________

10. Why is this document important?

__________________________________________________________________________