ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

Name __________________________________________________ Date____________________

Use this worksheet with each 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. Was the intent of the author to inform or persuade? How do you know?

__________________________________________________________________________

9. List at least two facts you find in this document.

__________________________________________________________________________

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

__________________________________________________________________________

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

__________________________________________________________________________

12. List two things the document tells you about life and society at the time it was written.

__________________________________________________________________________

13. Why do you think this document was created?

__________________________________________________________________________

14. Why is this document important?

__________________________________________________________________________

15. What questions does it raise or leave unanswered?

__________________________________________________________________________

16. Make a list of words or expressions you do not understand, and then look to other sources for definitions or explanations.

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