

Template 12

Reading and Evaluating a Primary Source



My name or my group: _____

Primary source: _____

Think about these questions as you examine this source:

Understanding the Context

1. Who wrote it? What do you know about this person?
2. When was it written?
3. If it was a speech, where was it delivered?
4. What was the reason for this document?
5. If there was an "event," who was probably in the audience?

Understanding the Document

1. What are the most important words, and what do they mean?
2. What point is the author trying to make?
3. What evidence does the author give to support his or her point?
4. Does the author make any assumptions? What are they?

Adapted from Wisconsin Historical Society website: "Using Primary Sources," <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/primarysources.asp#sensative>

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