

Primary Source Document Analysis

Use any or all parts of this worksheet to analyze different primary source documents. This worksheet is adapted from those available via the National Archives and Record Administration website.

What do you think the document is?

- Letter Telegram Advertisement Report
 Speech Court Document Press release Email
 Patent Newspaper Identification document
 Other

Describe it as if you were explaining it to someone who can't see it. Is it handwritten or typed? Is it by one person or multiple? Do you see any stamps or other marks? What else do you see on it?

What do you see?

Who wrote it?

Who read/received it?

When is it from?

Where is it from?

What is it all about?

What does it talk about?

Write a one sentence summary of it.

Why did the author write it? Quote evidence from the document to support this.

What was happening at the time in history this document was create?

What more can you find?

What other documents or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this topic?