

# Source Analysis

## The Origin of the document:

Is it a primary or secondary source?

When was it created and who published it?  
Where was it published?

What do you know about the author? Race, sex, class, occupation, religion, age, region, political beliefs? Does any of this matter? How?

## The Purpose of the document:

Think about the purpose of the source. Why does this document exist? What was the author's message or argument? What was he/she trying to get across? Is the message explicit, or are there implicit messages as well?

How does the author try to get the message across? What methods does he/she use?

Who is the intended audience? Was this source meant for one person's eyes, or for the public? How does that affect the source?

What can a careful reading of the text (even if

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

it is an object) tell you? How does the language work? What are the important metaphors or symbols? What can the author's choice of words tell you? What about the silences--what does the author choose NOT to talk about?

**Relationship between the origin of a source and it's purpose**

How does the origin of a source affect the purpose?

Does the origin make the source more valuable, or perhaps less valuable?

Is there a clear bias that can be identified based on who the author is, when it was created or the words that were chosen?

Is it obvious that there is a particular intention that the author had when choosing what details to include, or not include?