# Learn How to Analyze a Primary Source

## What is a primary source?

### 1. Primary sources are documents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, recordings, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that are original.

**2.** They were created during the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **period** that you are studying by people who experienced the events \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**-hand**, or lived \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them.

**3.** Primary sources are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from textbooks because textbooks tell us someone else’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of an event.

**4.** Primary sources are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ material open for **your** interpretation.

**B. How do I analyze a primary source?**

**1.** You read the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **focus.** The **suggested focus** is your guide for analyzing the **purpose** and **meaning**. It **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** the information you need to focus on.

**2.** You are like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **detective**, reading to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **evidence**.

**3.** Make sure you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ any unfamiliar terms or concepts.

1. **how do I analyze audio files?**
   1. Listen for clues that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and **inflection** may give.

## C. What if I have no clue what the primary source is talking about?

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **context** provided will give you the background you need to understand the primary source.

2. You focus on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and **background,** and then get busy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. As you read, think about how particular pieces of information \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **together**. Focus on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **parts** to better understand the whole thing.

4. Also, don’t jump to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to soon.

5. Once things start to make sense you answer the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **questions**. **Quoting** from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can be helpful to **strengthen** your answers.

6. Read. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Analyze.

**ANSWER KEY**

# I. Learn How to Analyze a Primary Source

## What is a primary source?

### 1. Primary sources are documents, images , recordings, and videos that are original.

**2.** They were created during the time **period** that you are studying by people who experienced the events first**-hand**, or lived through them.

**3.** Primary sources are different from textbooks because textbooks tell us someone else’s interpretation of an event.

**4.** Primary sources are raw material open for **your** interpretation.

**B. How do I analyze a primary source?**

**1.** You read the suggested **focus.** The **suggested focus** is your guide for analyzing the **purpose** and **meaning**. It identifies the information you need to focus on.

**2.** You are like a private **detective**, reading to uncover **evidence**.

**3.** Make sure you clarify any unfamiliar terms or concepts.

1. **how do I analyze audio files?**
   1. Listen for clues that tone and **inflection** may give.

## C. What if I have no clue what the primary source is talking about?

1. The historical **context** provided will give you the background you need to understand the primary source.

2. You focus on the purpose and **background,** and then get busy analyzing.

3. As you read, think about how particular pieces of information fit **together**. Focus on select **parts** to better understand the whole thing.

4. Also, don’t jump to conclusions to soon.

5. Once things start to make sense you answer the suggested **questions**. **Quoting** from the source can be helpful to **strengthen** your answers.

6. Read. Think. Analyze.