

Document Analysis Sheet

Name of Document _____
Date Written (if known) _____
Author (if known) _____

Historical Context

Where and when was the source created?
What was going on at the time?
What has just happened?
Is the document a reaction to some event?
How does this source represent the period?

Intended Audience

To whom is the piece directed?
One person, a small group, a large group?
A certain person or certain people?
How might this affect the reliability or accuracy of the source?

Purpose

Why was the source produced?
What was the author trying to accomplish?
Did he/she have ulterior motives?

Point-of-View

What is the main idea?
What point is the author trying to make?
How does the author's background or position impact the message?
(Race, class, gender, age, region, occupation, values, motives)

Organization

How does your analysis of the document fit into your argument?
Does it provide a counter-argument?
What Outside info does it support?