



Name: _____

Analyzing Documents

1. Think about the last time you read a document from our own time. What kind of document was it? What do you think it showed about your life?

2. Now look at the primary source document. What do you think this document is about? Write three words with your first impressions.

3. What type of document is it? How do you know?

Encounter





Now that you've become familiar with the document, it's time to take a closer look at it.

Investigate

4. First, look for a heading or title. Is there any information that will help you understand the document better? If so, summarize it.
5. Is there any information about who might have written the document or when?
6. Is this a formal or informal document? How do you know? Is it handwritten or printed? Make sure to look for special marks or seals.
7. Do you think this document was intended to be public or private? Who is the audience for this document?
8. What do you think is the purpose of this document?
9. What else do you notice in this document? Is there anything that surprises you?





Once you've learned everything you can from the document, it's time to build on your knowledge.

10. Now that you know more about the document, how have your first impressions changed regarding what it is about?

11. If someone wrote this document in a different time or today, how would it change?

12. What is fact in the document, and what is opinion?

13. How does this document add to your understanding of a historical event or people's lives in the past?

Build

How can you add to the story?



- * Do you think you would respond to this document the way the writer intended you to?
- * Take the next step: write the next journal entry, answer the letter, or write a newspaper editorial in response to the document.
- * Convey the information in a different way: write a speech, draw a picture about what the author is writing, or map the locations the author mentions.