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Analyzing Audiovisuals

1. Think about the last time you watched a video or listened to an audio clip, like a podcast, an e-book, or a radio broadcast. What types of things did you hear—voices, sound effects, music, something else? Was it just one type of thing, or did the clip include several different things?

2. Now listen to or watch the primary source audiovisual clip. What is it about, or what is the main idea? Write three words with your first impressions.

3. Describe the features of the recording in as much detail as possible. Consider things like if voices can be heard and/or people seen, the setting, the incorporation of music or images.





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

4. First, what kind of recording is this? An interview? A film? A commercial? A piece of music? Something else?

5. What clues are there about who might have made this clip or when it was created?

6. What is the purpose of this clip? Is it meant to inform? To entertain?

7. Who is the audience for this clip? How do you know?

8. What else do you notice in this clip? Is there anything that surprises you?



Build



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

9. Now that you know more about the clip, how have your first impressions changed regarding what it is about or what the main idea is?

10. How does this recording reflect the technology of its time and the way people shared information?

11. How would this recording be different if it were made today? Would people today convey the main idea in the same way?



How can you add to the story?

- * Compare this recording to another from its time and to one from today.
- * Find historic images to illustrate an audio recording.
- * Make a recording or video of your own with the same main point as this historic recording.