

## Analyzing Primary Sources--Steps

1. Scan the document and highlight words and phrases that you do not know the meaning of and/or cannot explain the meaning of.
2. Define the words using dictionary and context clues in the document. Write definitions in the margins of the document.
3. Check the source of the document. Who wrote it? Is it a **primary source**--1st person account/ someone who was actually there? Or is it a **secondary source**- more like a textbook or an historical writing about something that happened that was written by someone who wasn't actually there?
4. When was it written? Where? How might this affect the meaning of the document? How might this affect the validity, or truth, of the document? Is it biased?
5. If there are questions about the document, answer the questions as completely as you can in complete sentences and complete thoughts.
6. Remember to follow this protocol:

***What?* --what does the document actually say?**

***So what?*--what does the document mean?**

***Now what?*--what is the importance of the document?**

**How does it impact history?**

7. Use actual text /quotes from the document(s) to create a written answer to the bigger question/essential question connected to the documents. **Your answer must build an argument and support the argument with evidence from the text.** Write your written, constructed response to these documents in your Day Books using the protocol in point #6.