Understanding Events Using Primary Sources

**Instructions:** Form small groups and choose a primary source for your group to analyze and discuss. Write down your group’s answers to the following questions about your group’s source. Be prepared to discuss your answers and compare your primary source with other groups’

1. What is your primary source?

2. What are your first impressions about the source?

3. Who is the author or creator? What is their background? *think about their gender, race, beliefs, job, class, location and how that may impact their perspective*

4. When was it written or created? *think about not just the time period in which it was created, but also the overall timeline of the event*

5. What is the source’s position or purpose? Why was it created?

6. Who was the audience? What was the creator’s relationship to the audience?

7. Is there bias present in the source? Is the point of view objective, persuasive, or antagonistic?

8. What feelings does this primary source evoke in you? Was that the intent of the author/creator?

9. What is your overall assessment of the source? What additional questions do you have about it?