Examining Primary Sources

1. IDENTITY
2. CONTEXTUALIZE and EXPLORE
3. ANALYZE
4. EVALUATE
Reading Primary Sources

1. IDENTIFY THE SOURCE
   – What is the nature of the source?
   – Who created this source, and what do I know about him/her/them?
   – When/where was the source produced?
2. CONTEXTUALIZE THE SOURCE

– What do you know about the historical context for this source?
– What do I know about how the creator of this source fits into that historical context?
– Why did the person who created the source do so?
2. EXPLORE THE SOURCE

– What factual information is conveyed in this source?
– What opinions are related in this source?
– What is implied or conveyed unintentionally in the source?
– What is not said in this source?
– What is surprising or interesting about the source?
– What is left out?
3. ANALYZE THE SOURCE

– How does the creator of the source convey information and make his/her point?
– How is the world described in the source different from my world?
– How might others at the time have reacted to this source?
4. EVALUATE THE SOURCE

– How does this source compare to other primary sources?

– How does this source compare to secondary source accounts?

– What do you believe and disbelieve from this source?

– What do you still not know — and where can you find that information?
1. IDENTITY
2. CONTEXTUALIZE and EXPLORE
3. ANALYZE
4. EVALUATE