Primary Source Analysis

This checklist is a series of questions that can be used to analyze most of the documents and items in this course.

1. What type of document or object is this evidence?

2. Why does the document or object exist? What motives prompted the author to create the material in this form?

3. Who created this work?

4. Who or what is left out - women, children, minorities, members of the majority?

5. In addition to the main subject, what other kinds of information can be obtained?

6. How do the subjects of the document or object relate to what we know about broader society?

7. What was the meaning of the document or object in its own time? What is the meaning for its audience?

8. What does the document or object tell us about change or stability in society?