

Name: _____

History 7B (M/W) Primary Source Paper Worksheet (Due Wed., 2/27 in Class)

- 1) Read through the Primary Source Paper Instructions
- 2) Analyze your Sources: For each primary source you are examining, fill out the following chart.
Print out extra copies (available on Canvas) if you are examining more than 1 source (up to 3).

Who is writing? What perspective/biases/assumptions might this person have?	
What kind of document is it? How does this shape the meaning or purpose of the document?	
Where is this document being written, or where do the events described take place? Is the place/setting significant?	
When is the source appearing for first time? What else was going on at this time?	
Why is the author writing? Put yourself in his/her shoes. What main point is he/she trying to make? Who is his/her intended audience?	
How is the author going about making his/her point? What rhetorical strategies, tone, or approach is he/she using?	
What is the historical significance of this source? How does it help us understand the topic and the larger historical issues of that time period?	

- 3) Formulate your Argument: Once you have analyzed each of your primary sources, respond to each of the following questions.

What interesting historical questions might these sources help us answer? It might help to look back at some of the “Big Questions” we have addressed each week. List some interpretive (“How” or “Why”) questions here:

Choose the most interesting question from above and consider ways in which you can make it more specific, or narrow. Can you think of smaller questions within your big question? Can you specify by a particular time period, place, individual, etc., (while still leaving the “how or why” at the beginning)?

Explain why this question is significant. Even though it might be narrow, how will it help us answer bigger historical and contemporary questions (maybe questions we have addressed in class)?

How would you answer this question, based on the primary sources you are using? Go ahead and use this as your hypothesis. As you reread your primary sources, look for evidence to support this claim; you can revise it as you go along.