Analyzing Written Documents

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| Source | 1) When was the document created?  2) Who created the document?  3) What kind of document is it?  4) For what audience was the document created?  5) What's the significance of these pieces of information? |
| Observe | 1) Summarize the content of the document in one sentence  2) What parts of the text support/verify that summary?  3) What do we learn about life in this time from this document? |
| Contextualize  (using your own prior knowledge) | 1) Put this into the bigger picture. What else do you know about this era? How does that help you understand more about the document, why it was created, and its significance to our understanding of this time and place? |
| Corroborate  (by formulating questions) | 1) What questions do you have that would help you understand this document further?  2) What evidence (primary or secondary) would help you answer your questions? Where would you go next? |

Adapted from SOCC by Bringing History Home, 2001-2011.

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