

Analyzing a Primary Source

Author:

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Subject /Grade Level: 11th grade United States History

Overview: Analyzing primary sources is an important component of study for historians and greatly furthers our understanding of historical events. During this activity students will read and carefully evaluate a primary source using the primary source analysis worksheet provided by the National Archives.

Objective: Students will learn how to carefully analyze a primary source.

Alabama Dept. of Education Curriculum Standard:

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| IL (K-12) | <p>1. The student who is information literate accesses information efficiently and effectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognizes the need for information.• Recognizes that accurate and comprehensive information is the basis for intelligent decision making.• Formulates questions based on information needs.• Identifies a variety of potential sources of information.• Develops and uses successful strategies for locating information. |
| SS2010 (9-12) Contemporary World Issues and Civic Engagement | <p>5. Analyze cultural elements, including language, art, music, literature, and belief systems, to determine how they facilitate global understanding or misunderstanding.</p> |
| TC2 (6-8) | <p>11. Use digital tools and strategies to locate, collect, organize, evaluate, and synthesize information.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• locating—Boolean searches, graphic organizers, spreadsheets, databases• collecting—probeware, graphing calculators• organizing—graphic organizers, spreadsheets• evaluating—reviewing publication dates, determining credibility• synthesizing—word processing software, concept-mapping software |

Time Needed: One hour

Materials Needed:

- [primary source analysis worksheet](#)

Primary Sources:

[The Gettysburg Address](#)

[President Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural address](#)

[President Kennedy's Inaugural address](#)

[Letter from Martin Luther King written to W.E.B Dubois](#)

[Heed Their Rising voices advertisement](#)

[Wallace for governor pamphlet \(1970\)](#)

[Freedmen's bureau labor contract.](#)

[Montgomery County slaveholder's affidavit.](#)

[Emory Folmar for governor flyer](#)

[Letter to Mayor Emory Folmar from General John Roberts of the United States Air Force.](#)

Procedures:

- Step 1: Introduce the lesson by explaining what primary sources are and how they differ from secondary sources. Also why they are important in studying history.
- Step 2: Pass out a primary source to each student along with a primary source analysis worksheet. Allow students to individually read the source and complete the worksheet.

Accommodations/Modifications: Students can be given extra time to work on the assignment if needed.

Assessment: Students should be evaluated based on the completion of the worksheet, as well as the level of thoughtfulness of their answers to each question. Students should also be graded based on how well they identify and understand key issues within their primary source as shown through their answers on the worksheet.



1 September 1978

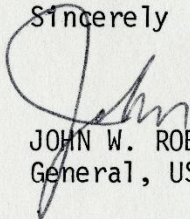
Honorable Emory Folmar
Mayor of the City of Montgomery
City Hall Building
103 North Perry
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Dear Emory

During my visits to Montgomery, I have been impressed by the courtesies afforded me, and certainly yesterday was no exception. The luncheon at the country club was especially enjoyable, and Fern and I are grateful to you and Anita for your hospitality. It was a real pleasure for us to be able to visit with you, as well as with some of Montgomery's other leading citizens.

We thank you and Anita for being so gracious.

Sincerely


JOHN W. ROBERTS
General, USAF

I wish I could talk with you before November 2nd, but it is impossible to meet and shake hands with every Alabamian. A friend from my hometown has volunteered to bring you my personal message. My wife Anita and I have traveled over this state and talked with people from all walks of life. We share your concerns and hopes for the future.

I offer you my sincere commitment to solving the problems before us. When you vote, I ask you to put Alabama first and vote Folmar for Governor. With your prayers and support, we can have a better future.

Sincerely,
Emory Folmar

FOLMAR
FOR GOVERNOR
GET ALABAMA WORKING!

CONTRACT FOR LABOR.

State of Alabama, }

COUNTY OF Madison

Between Dr. J. Robertson, and the undersigned colored laborers, WITNESSETH, That I, Dr. J. Robertson, obligate myself to give to the undersigned colored laborers,

of the cotton; one third of the corn; one third of the fodder; and one third of all other produce raised on my plantation; and to furnish the said laborers with (60) acres of land Ind. mules & feed for mules everything necessary to make a cash and (300) three hundred pounds of good pork or bacon; and _____ of corn meal, each, per week, until the first day of January, 1869. clothing they to pay for at the end of the year out of their part of the crops at market price

For and in consideration of the above, We, the undersigned colored laborers, obligate ourselves to labor faithfully for Dr. J. Robertson each day, from sunrise until sunset Sunday excepted, until the first day of January, 1869, working according to, and obeying all reasonable orders given by the employer or his agent. We also obligate ourselves to pay _____ per day, for all time lost by us, and to observe and be governed by the general rules and regulations of the plantation.

Signed at Madison Ala., the 2nd day of April, 1868.

J. T. Robertson
for
Henry & Williams
for
Ephraim & Duffin for Henry
for
Reed & Williams for Henry
for

WITNESS:

W. J. Anderson

State of Alabama: }
MONTGOMERY COUNTY. }

Personally appeared before me, DAVID CAMPBELL, Judge of Probate in
said County, *William Spivey*
and on oath saith that a Negro *man* named *Lewis*
about *Twenty* years old, *copper colored* skin, now confined in Jail in
Montgomery County, is the property of and belongs to *S. J. McCall*
of *Lowney County - Ala -*

Sworn to and Subscribed before me, }
14th day of *August* 186*7* }

David Campbell
Judge of Probate.

W. Spivey