

Government & Economics
12th Grade
Instructor: Mr. Feliciano
Assignment: Primary Source Analysis
Due Date: January 5th, 2024

Length Requirement: 5 pages double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font, & Work Cite Page (Footnotes are optional depending on your source)

Background: Government is the political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens, or inhabitants of communities, societies, and states; direction of the affairs of a state, and community. Another concept of Government is called Political Science. Political Science is the study of historical and social aspects of society. By seeing how governments work in the political and social aspects we can determine whether a citizen is beneficial or harmful to an individual. The concept of studying human action and human reaction on a larger scale is called Sociology. Sociology studies the development, structure, and functioning of human society. We can understand how the world works by looking at social behavior, society, patterns of social relationships, social interaction, and culture that surrounds everyday life.

Description: This assignment is 1 of 2 required essays for your graduation and must be completed by no later than **January 5th, 2024**. In this assignment, students will conduct a primary source analysis on 1 of the 10 following selections that I have provided. Students do have the opportunity to propose their own primary source but it must be approved by me (Mr. Feliciano).

What is a primary source analysis? - A primary source analysis is when historians examine any surviving material from the time period under historical consideration. Examples of primary sources are:

- Letters, diaries, photographs
- Contemporary newspaper or other media accounts (includes all media)
- Political and other cartoons, comic books, ads, songs, films, TV shows
- Artwork, poetry, fiction

Your primary source analysis should be approached as such:

1. Identify the type of primary source/document
2. Identify its source and/or origin, its creator (if possible), and date
3. Identify its probable intended audience
4. Provide other basic info on the source and its background, if necessary or relevant
5. The key challenge: describe and analyze/interpret its contents, including its ironies, if any
6. Identify any prejudices displayed in the source/document
7. Find meanings perhaps unintended by the creator of the source
8. Step back: Consider the source in its era: did you successfully explain how the source exemplifies (and/or challenges) the values of its time

(Note: You do not have to answer it in this particular order but you can. Remember your analysis is meant to flow, don't sound like a robot when you write your paper.)

Please choose **one** primary source (a source from the past) reproduced in our readings, and answer the questions posed in the seven basic categories of the list above.

Remember: However, these *are* the basic categories of any decent primary source analysis that takes into account and seeks to answer. The basic question a primary source analysis seeks to answer is: **what does this source tell us about the times that produced it?** *All information included in your paper should be taken from our course readings only!* As per the syllabus, the paper should be prepared using **MS-Word and should be approx. 5 double-spaced pages in length (can be longer, not shorter) and should be written in the Chicago format (meaning correctly formatted footnotes and a list of Works Cited -- we have not spoken much about Chicago in our last few meetings and will be revisiting this subject briefly in our next two classes, prior to the submission date).**

Again the paper is due on, or anytime before, **January 5th, 2024** (3 weeks from now) before the start of class. Papers handed in after **January 5th, 2024** on that date will lose one point off the top, an additional point after midnight that day, and one more additional point for each additional day the paper is late thereafter. Basically: do yourself and me a favor and try to get the paper in by **January 5th**, please.

The sources on which your primary source is based will be listed below (Remember choose only one source and choose a source that grabs your interest. Do not choose a source that may look easy, I promise you it's a lot harder than it looks and it will be more work for you.):

1. Engle Gary - What Makes Superman So Darned American
2. Marcus Lee Hansen - The Third Generation in America
3. Hooks, Bell. Straightening Out Hair
4. Susman, Warren. Personality and the Making of Twentieth-Century Culture
5. Toni Morrison - On the Backs of Blacks
6. Ford & Ruth - Reading
7. Rader, Benjamin C. - American Ways - Victorianism
8. WW1: Propaganda Posters
9. Joshua C. Taylor - American as Art
10. Audre Lorde - The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action
11. Proposal for Primary Source Analysis: If you wish to propose your own source for an assignment, submit a 1000-word response. Your response must include what the primary source is, how it is a primary source (based) on the guidelines, and why you would like to use your source.

Government & Economics: Primary Source Analysis Guide

How to approach a Primary Source:

First ...	Y	Answer here	N	Additional comment...
Identify the type of primary source/ document				
Identify its source and/or origin, its creator (if possible), and date				
Identify its probable intended audience				
Provide other basic info on the source and its background, if necessary or relevant				
The key challenge: <i>describe and analyze/interpret its contents</i> , including its ironies, if any				
Identify any prejudices displayed in the source/document				
Find meanings perhaps unintended by the creator of the source				
Step back: Consider the source in its era: did you successfully explain how the source exemplifies (and/or challenges) the values of its times?				