Primary Source Checklist

What are primary sources?

Primary sources are original records or objects that provide first hand testimony or direct evidence about an historical event or topic.

How do you analyze primary sources?

Good 'reading' of sources involves asking questions and using your 'historical imagination'.

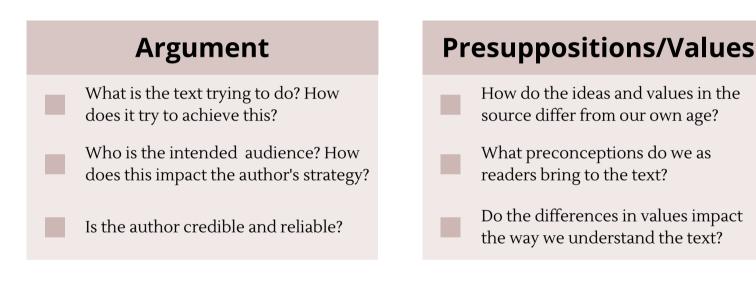
Use this checklist to help get started

Purpose

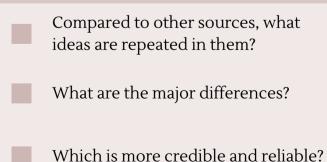
Who is the author? What's their place in society?

Why did they prepare this document? What's at stake for them?

Do they have a thesis? What is it?



Relate



How does this source support

Evaluating Truth Content

- arguments from secondary sources?
- What unintended information does the document reveal?
- Which parts are the author's interpretations? Which are facts?