

Education with the National Library of Israel

Primary Source Analysis Worksheet Document

This worksheet may be used to analyze documents and to understand their meaning.
Every document is unique. Fill out the sections relevant to the document you are analyzing.

Stage 1 – First Impressions

What is the documents appearance?

Describe the appearance of the document. Pay attention to details such as: signature, illustrations and ornamentation, size of the document, the style pf the handwriting or font, language, paper type, and so on...

What type of recording is it?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Announcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Journal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Stage 2 – Exploring the Details

What dates appear in the document?

Note all of the dates appearing in the document ant what they are connected to, for example: date the document was written, date the document was received, dates of events described in the document, and so on...

Date _____ Event _____

Date _____ Event _____

If no dates appear in the document, try to make an estimation of what period the document is from. Write down how you arrived at your conclusion.

What characters appear in the document?

Name of the writer of the documents _____

Representative of the institution/organization _____

The document is designated to _____

Representative of the institution/organization _____

Other persons appearing in the document:

_____ Position _____

_____ Position _____

Education with the National Library of Israel

What locations are referred to in the document?

Location _____ What took place there? _____

Location _____ What took place there? _____

Stage 3 – Understanding the Meaning

What is the main theme of the document?

What is the goal of the document in your opinion?

Why was the document written? What information in the document can assist you in understand the purpose of writing the document?

What can be learned about the period?

What have you learned from the document about the period it was written in or an event that the document deals with? Explain why you have come to this conclusion.

Stage 4 – Reflecting and Evaluating

What don't we know?

Write down three questions for the writer of the document that have occurred to you while reading it.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

How do we receive a complete picture of reality?

Every document is an expression of its composer's unique point of view. What is lacking in order to receive a more complete picture of the reality portrayed by the by the document? (Information? Type of document? Other documentation? Other points of view? Maybe you have other ideas?)

How can we verify the integrity of the document?

Every document is written for a purpose. The goal may cause the composer to emphasize certain details while leaving out other important ones. In your opinion does this document contain details that seem unreliable to you, or are there important facts that seem to be missing?

What ways can you think of to verify the integrity of the document's information?
