

Primary Source Analysis Worksheet

Document

This worksheet may be used to analyse different types of documents and understand their meaning. Every document is unique. Fill out the sections relevant to the item you are analysing.

Observing – *What can you learn from observing the item?*

1. First impression: What catches your attention when you first look at the item?

2. Describe the document (pay attention to details such as: signature, illustrations and ornamentation, size of the document, the style of the handwriting or font, language, etc.)

3. What information is written on the document? (names, dates, message, etc.)

4. What type of document is it? (announcement, report, journal, invitation, advertisement, letter, newspaper, other?)

Understanding – *Using prior knowledge and analytical skills, reference books and online research to understand the context and meaning of the item.*

1. If no date is written on the document, when do you think it was written? Why did you pick that date? What hints did you find in the document?

2. What is the main theme of the document? _____

3. What is the goal of the document, in your opinion? What information in the document can assist you in understanding its purpose?

4. Does the document refer to a specific event or public figure? Learn about the historical background. How does knowledge of the history add to your understanding of the document?



5. What have you learned from the document about the period when it was written or the event that the document deals with? Explain how you came to these conclusions.

Connecting – What does the item mean to you? What are your impressions of the item? How does this item connect to your own life and experiences?

1. How would you feel to receive this document? How would you respond?

2. Have you ever received or sent a document similar to this one? How was your document different? What did it mean to you?

3. What is your personal opinion regarding the text, the author, or the event to which the document relates?

Creating – How does the item inspire you? Use what you have learned to create something new.

Choose from the suggestions below.

- Write an updated version of this document.
- If the document refers to an event, write a journal entry for someone who might have attended.
- Use a different media, such as video, social media, art, etc., to send the same message.
- Search for other resources on the [National Library of Israel](http://www.nli.org.il) website that relate to the document. Present all of the resources together to tell a fully developed story. Use [Canva](https://www.canva.com/) or other media tools.
- Make a [Kahoot](https://www.kahoot.com/) or [Playbuzz](https://www.playbuzz.com/) game about the document. Include information about the people, organisation, or event mentioned in the document.

