**Analyzing a Primary Source**

Here is an outline of how to approach the analysis of primary sources.

* Think of primary sources as something that was doing something in the past, performing an act, making something happen. Ask: What was the text doing? In other words: what work was it doing in the past, what was its author trying to achieve?
* Then consider
	+ Sourcing
		- Who or what is the document’s author and how and why was it created?
	+ Context
		- Situation: What was the situation in which this document was created (time; place; in response to what events)?
		- Medium: What sort of document is this (written, visual (artwork, photograph), audio/video recording)?
		- Type of text: what sort of literary or document form does this document take? Is it correspondence (letters), a report, a law, a novel, a non-fiction book, an oral history, etc?
* Then do:
	+ Close Reading. Read the document carefully, paying attention to:
		- Intent
		- Significant words
		- Basic message
		- Audience
	+ Corroboration
		- Compare what the document says with what we know from other sources.