

Questions to Consider While Reading and Analyzing the Weekly Primary Source Documents

1. Who wrote this document?
2. Who was the intended audience?
3. Why was this document written?
4. What was the author's point of view or bias?
5. How does this document fit into a larger historical context?
6. What does this document tell you that you haven't learned from other sources?
7. What kind of language does the author use to make his or her point? What clues does the wording give you?
8. Does this document express the point of view or sentiments of a particular segment of society? How can you tell?
9. What, if anything, do contemporary historians say about this document and author and do you agree with this assessment based on your close reading of the source? Why or why not?
10. **ABOVE ALL: what is the text *doing*? (Not simply what is it saying!)** What is the core of its inner polemic and how would it work with its intended audience at the time?
- 11) What questions does the document suggest or leave you with that you might raise in discussion or explore in your own research?