Source Analysis

**Discussion Expectations**

This course will have regular source discussions throughout the semester. In these lab discussion sessions, you will be asked to analyze texts, films, maps, or podcasts. Using specific techniques, you will analyze these sources to think about them from multiple perspectives and interpret their meaning. You will fill out an analysis sheet each time we discuss a source in class. You will turn in a paper copy on the date it is due. For students to get credit for the source analysis sheets as a part of their ePortfolio, they must be in class for the discussion.

**Analysis**

For many of you, the process of analysis may be something new and intimidating. Here are some questions/thoughts to help you think analytically. At different times, I may ask you to prioritize certain questions in the list. What is the creator’s main claim, thesis, or argument?

* Is the creator trying to prove anything?
* Why was the source created?
* What was the purpose of the source?
* Who was the audience for the source?
* What does this source teach us?
* How does the source help us understand something about our problem?
* When was the source created and what did it mean to the people during that time?
* Consider the creator and what perspective/bias that might bring to the source.
* Consider what in the source doesn’t fit or might surprise you.
* Does the source remind you of anything?
* Why is this source important?

Adapted from Lab Worksheet created by Prof. Spencer and Dr. Jill Anderson

Due Date: Name:

Source Analysis

Title:

Author:

Source Date:

Source Type:

Context (what is important to note about the creator, when it was created, its audience, or its format?):

Summary (what important facts about the source’s content should we note for our discussion):

Analysis (what should we take away to better understand our problem and its stakeholders?):