

## Primary Source Analysis

Good reading is about asking questions of your sources. Keep the following in mind when reading primary sources. Even if you believe you can not arrive at the answers, imagining possible answers will aid your comprehension. Reading primary sources requires that you use your historical imagination. This process is all about your willingness and ability to ask questions of the material, imagine possible answers, and *explain your reasoning*. **Think OPVL!!**

### Guide To Analyzing Historical Documents

---

1. *Type of Document* (1pt)

- |  |                                     |   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> newspaper         | <input type="checkbox"/> speech     | <input type="checkbox"/> advertisement      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> letter            | <input type="checkbox"/> book       | <input type="checkbox"/> personal journal   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> court decision    | <input type="checkbox"/> pamphlet   | <input type="checkbox"/> periodical article |
| <input type="checkbox"/> report            | <input type="checkbox"/> memorandum | <input type="checkbox"/> government record  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (describe): |                                     |   |

2. Who is the *author*? What is the *purpose* of the document? (2pts)

3. What is the background information about the author that would help determine *point-of-view*, *bias* or *perspective*? (3pts)

4. *Content Analysis of the Document* (3pts)

A. Identify three main ideas of the document / author.

B. List and discuss two things the document reveals about the period (life, society, politics, etc.) in which it was written. (4pts)