

Name _____

World History: Document Analysis – SOAPS

Title of the primary source: _____

Type of primary source: _____
(painting, photograph, map, letter, autobiography, speech, newspaper article, video clip, piece of pottery...)

Subject — What does the source say? (Brief summary: general topic, content, and ideas) Why is this source important? What is its historical significance? What inferences can you draw from this document? Ask yourself, “So what?” in relation to the question asked.

Occasion — When and where was the primary source created? What is the historical context surrounding the creation of the document? How might this affect the meaning of the source?

Audience — For whom was the source created or performed? How might this affect the reliability of the source?

Purpose — Why was this source produced at the time it was produced? Why was it written (or drawn or made)? What motivated the author? What did he or she seek to accomplish?

Speaker—Analyze the author or speaker's *point of view*. Consider the author's personal frame of reference (economic class, occupation, gender, religion, nationality, social status, level of education, etc.), whether they are observing from outside the situation or inside the situation, and the impact of the *historical context*. Put everything together and explain why this person would be producing this piece of information at this time.
