

Digital Primary Source Analysis

Materials

- A physical primary source of any kind
- Credible library or internet informational resources

Instructions:

- Select a digital primary source from the [Library of Congress](#) or the [Digital Public Library of America](#). Your source may be a digital copy of a physical object or it may have been originally created as a digital object—it's up to you!
- Use the worksheet for the relevant format of your source to assist you in writing a 500 word paper where you analyze your source:
 - [Photograph Worksheet](#)
 - [Written Document Worksheet](#)
 - [Artifact/Object Worksheet](#)
 - [Poster Worksheet](#)
 - [Map Worksheet](#)
 - [Cartoon Worksheet](#)
 - [Video Worksheet](#)
 - [Sound Recording Worksheet](#)
 - [Artwork Worksheet](#)
- When you are addressing the questions on the worksheet, be sure to consider:
 - How does the digital nature of the item change how you understand it in comparison to its physical counterpart? Can you use the digital item as evidence in the same way as you would its physical counterpart? If your item is a website or other dynamic format, can this item even have a physical equivalent? If your source can be found in digital form only, do you think other frameworks or sets of questions might be needed to analyze materials that only exist in a digital format?
- If you don't feel your format is represented, feel free to use the questions for the most similar format as inspiration—just be sure to follow the general structure outlined in each worksheet: "Meet the source. Observe its parts. Try to make sense of it. Use it as historical evidence."
- Cite any outside sources using the Chicago citation style and a references page.