Primary Source Guide The History Lab
Name: www.tielab.org

Go into this lab like a historian goes onto a room of documents she's never seen before: wide-eyed and seeking answers to questions she may not yet even have. Your goal is to make sense of the documents along the lines of the lab inquiry option you chose. There is a premium on original (but responsible) thinking. Use the interpretive methodology below outlined below.

1) **Recognition & Comprehension:** Identify what is actually in the source.

2) **Making Observations:** What about the source "jumps out" at you?

3) **Contextualizing:** Place the source within the time and events from which it comes.

4) **Drawing Inferences:** Draw inferences from the information in the source (about the creator of the source, about his or her purpose, about the moment in time, about the source itself, etc…).

5) **Drawing Connections:** Draw connections between the source and other sources.

6) **Formulating Hypotheses:** Formulate a credible hypothesis about the source, sources or surrounding historical events that is based on the information in the source and your knowledge of the period. If you chose to respond to a specific question in this lab, your hypothesis should answer this. (Use the back of this sheet)

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