



Prejudice and Solidarity Archived Throughout History
Partnership with Four Pillars & GREC

Source Analysis Exercise

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Source Analysis is a critical review of the historical material used in research. It is important to understand the process and the variety of approaches with which documents can be interpreted. A good analysis stands on placing the document in relevant historical context, accurate interpretation of the content and a solid argumentation of application of the source.



1) The baseline information

What is the source in question?

Who is the author of the document?

When was it created?

Where was it created? / What location(s) does it talk about?

What does it say? What and who does it relate to?

2) Contextualisation

What circumstances was this source produced in?

- Personal Feelings of the Author

- Local or National Events

- Does it build on previous sources talking about the same issue?

Why is it relevant? - I.e., is the context affecting the source's content/language/style?

3) Interpretation

What is this source for?

- Who is the audience of the text?

- Does it use any peculiar language?

- Does it possess an underlying message or agenda?

What does it NOT say? Is there something relevant that has been omitted?

Does it carry a bias?

4) Argumentation

What can it be used for?

What other sources could be used to prove your point?

