

SOAPS Analysis: Using Primary and Secondary Sources

1. What type of document is it (newspaper, map, advertisement, letter, telegram, report, journal, photo, film, etc.)?
2. What are some of the unique physical qualities of the document (letterhead, handwritten, seals, notations, stamps, etc.)?
3. What kind of source is it ?
4. Who is the **Speaker**? (what do we know of the speaker strictly from the document, what do we know from the metadata, what do we know from further research?)
5. What is the **Occasion**? (Time period, historical significance, other contemporary events)
6. Who is the **Audience**? (Who was the document designed for in its time?)
7. What is the **Purpose** of the document? (What did the document do or achieve? Was that its intended purpose? What is the author's argument?)
8. What is the **Subject** of the document? (what is the basic story?)
9. What is the **Bias** you find in the document? (What did the creator leave out, who did the creator leave out?)
10. What new questions do you have that leads to further research? (Dig deeper!)