



HARRY RANSOM
CENTER

The University of Texas at Austin

Primary Source Analysis

The following worksheet will ask you to relate archival material at the Harry Ransom Center to the theme of your course. Consider the connections between the objects in the room and the ideas you have been discussing in class.

Reflect on your class.

Think about what you are learning in your class. How might it relate to what you are about to see? List at least three key ideas or concepts.

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Identify your object.

1. Describe the artifact in very literal terms and observe its material traits. (“It is a photo of a house and there is a large field with three small trees in the foreground. It has a rip in the corner and a coffee stain on the bottom right...”).
2. Provide identifying information (Transaction #, Collection/Box/Folder Name, etc.)
3. What questions do you have about the object?
4. What information would help you understand and interpret the item in front of you?

Discuss your artifact with a partner.

5. Can you identify a common theme among both of your artifacts?
6. How do these documents connect to the larger questions you have been discussing in class?

Bring it all together.

7. What does this document tell you about the subject matter of your class?
8. Does the artifact reinforce, contradict, or raise questions about opinions you have read or heard about the artifact's topic or theme?
9. What questions do you still have? What items would you like to consult to answer these questions?