

World History
Objective 1.02:
Enrichment

Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources to compare views, trace themes, and detect bias.

.Primary sources are eyewitness accounts of places or events. They contain firsthand knowledge. Diaries, letters, memoirs, interviews with eyewitnesses, photographs, news articles and legal documents may be primary sources (Glencoe: World History).

Primary sources are valuable resources if used properly. If not used properly, they can be misleading and lead to biased/one-sided conclusions.

In examining primary sources, you must always analyze the document thoroughly, look for what is missing as well as what is present in the document, identify when and where the source was produced and identify the author or source, noting any biases expressed by the author or creator of the source.

To help you interpret primary source, the following steps will help:

Examine the origins of the document: Is it really a primary source? Who produced it? When? Why was it produced (memoir, propaganda, letter etc.)?

Read it more than once and take notes on it.

Research other resources on this topic and compare the information.

Enrichment:

Using the advice given above, read and analyze the following primary source.

Gandhi Takes the Path of Civil Disobedience by Mohandas Gandhi.

Next, you must find another primary source, written during the same time period and on the same subject (The British in India in the period 1930 – 1945) but written from a different point of view, preferably in favor of continued British rule.

Now you must compare and contrast the two primary sources.

Your final assignment is to take a secondary source written on the same subject and compare the value of the secondary source to that of the primary sources.