

Primary Source Skills Activity Case Study Guidelines

Directions: After teaching your Primary Source Activity, write a 2-3 page case study about the experience. Your case study should include the following four sections. The questions are provided as guidelines of what types of information to include. Post this case study on the blog no later than November 9, 2009.

- 1. INTRODUCTION:** Describe the source and why you chose it. Describe how you set up the lesson and give an overview of the procedures.
 - What was the source and why did you choose it?
 - What did you want students to learn by working with this source?
 - How did the source fit into the larger context and essential understandings of the course?
 - What prior experience, if any, did they have working with primary sources?.
 - What prior knowledge did they have of the time period or historical context?
 - What role did you play while students were reading, discussing, and analyzing the source?

- 2. READING THE SOURCE:** Explain how the analysis proceeded in your class, using specific examples.
 - What happened when students read the source? What did they notice or observe?
 - How did students investigate sourcing: authorship, perspective, audience?
 - What questions did they have about the source?
 - How did students place the source in historical context? How did you help them?

- 3. ANALYZING STUDENT WORK:** Analyze the written work created by your students during the primary source activity.
 - Describe the written assignment and what your objectives were.
 - What do you think your students learned?
 - Does their work provide evidence of historical thinking? Explain.
 - What did the students do well? What would you like to see them do better?

- 4. REFLECTING ON THE LESSON:** Analyze your experience teaching with a primary source.
 - What did you learn from this exercise?
 - What skills did students develop that will help them work with new primary sources (of this genre or of a different genre) in the future?
 - What problems, if any, did you or the students encounter?
 - What made this assignment work well or not so well?
 - What would you change the next time you teach this source?