HAPPY

Primary Source Analysis Questions

H – Historical Context

1. When and where was this created?

2. Place the item in context of concurrent events. Think about what major events or trends occurred during the year it was produced.

A – Audience

1. Who is the intended audience of the document?

2. How might the intended audience affect the reliability and/or validity of the source?

P – Purpose

1. Why was this source created? Was it meant to persuade, inform, etc.?

P – Point of View

1. What do you know about the author and their background?

2. From what point of view is the author writing this document?

3. Think about potential for bias or an agenda.

Y – "Why?" What's the Significance?

1. What is this document trying to convey?

2. Why is this document important? What does it tell us about this time, this perspective, this issue, etc.?