



THINKS Document Analysis

Document analysis is a cornerstone of social studies education, offering numerous benefits that enhance students' understanding of historical events, societal changes, and historical thinking skills.

Document analysis requires students to evaluate sources, discern biases, and foster higher-order thinking. By examining primary and secondary sources, students engage directly with the voices of the past, gaining a more nuanced understanding of historical events and perspectives.

Using THINKS to get students to analyze historical documents improves their historical thinking skills. By incorporating document analysis, social studies classrooms empower students to become active learners and critical thinkers, equipping them with skills that extend beyond the classroom into their roles as informed, engaged citizens. THINKS is a powerful tool that can be used on a weekly basis in your classroom.

THINKS DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

THINKS Document Analysis - Secondary Source		
T (Target Audience) 1. Who was the target audience of this document? 2. Whose voice or perspective is not shared in this document?	H (Historical Context) 1. When was this document created and/or circulated? Why were it? 2. What historical context does the author address in this document?	I (Intended Purpose) 1. Why do you think this document was written in other words, what is its purpose? 2. What specific elements of the text best capture the purpose of the document? Cite evidence.
N (New Vocabulary) 1. What words are new to you or need to be defined? <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	K (Key Perspective) 1. Based on your reading of this document, what are some things that can be inferred about the author's perspective or point of view? 2. What do you know about people with the authors' attributed role could their circumstances impact their perspective?	
S (Significance) 1. List two things or ideas that make this document and/or historical claim historically significant. 2. Provide one quote from the document that demonstrates why it might be considered historically significant. Explain your reasoning.		

- THINKS Document Analysis is a tool to help read, understand, and interpret sources
- The acronym provides questions for consideration to help guide thinking:
 - T: Target Audience
 - H: Historical Context
 - I: Intended Purpose
 - N: New Vocabulary
 - K: Key Perspective
 - S: Significance