

PHOTOGRAPH ANALYSIS GUIDE

Analyze a photographic document by MEETING the document, OBSERVING its parts, TRYING TO MAKE SENSE of it, and finally USING it as historical evidence.

MEET THE DOCUMENT

Quickly scan the photo. What do you notice first?

What type of photo is it? (Check all that apply.)

- Portrait Landscape Aerial Action Architectural
 Event Family Portrait Panoramic Posed Candid
 Documentary Other

Describe the document as if you were explaining it to someone who can't see it. (Think about: Is it handwritten or typed? Is it all by the same person? Are there stamps or other marks? What else do you see on it?)

Is there a caption? Yes No

OBSERVE ITS PARTS

List the people, objects, and activities that you see.

PEOPLE	OBJECTS	ACTIVITIES

Write one sentence to summarize this photo.

TRY TO MAKE SENSE OF IT

Answer as best you can. The caption, if available, may help.

1. Who took this photo?
2. Where is it from?
3. When is it from?
4. What was happening at the time in history this photo was taken?
5. Why was it taken? List evidence from the photo or your knowledge about the photographer that led you to your conclusion.

USE IT AS HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

1. What did you find out from this photo that you might not learn anywhere else?
2. What other documents, photos, or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this event or topic?