

Primary Source Guide

Identify the Author

Who created the source? What do you know about the author? What is the author's point of view?

Place and Time

Where and when was the source produced? How might this affect the meaning of the source?

Audience

For whom was the source created and how might this affect the reliability of the source?

Reason

Why was this source produced and how might this affect the reliability of the source?

The Main Idea

What point is the source trying to convey?

Prior Knowledge

Beyond the information about the author and the context of its creation, what do you know that would further help you understand the primary source? For example, do you recognize any symbols and recall what they represent?

Significance

Why is the source important? Ask yourself, "So What?" in relation to the prompt.

Primary Source Worksheet

Identify the Author: _____

Place and Time: _____

Audience: _____

Reason: _____

The Main Idea: _____

Prior Knowledge: _____

Significance: _____

Primary Source Worksheet (Sample – **The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs**)

Identify the Author: **The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs**, was written by Jon Scieszka from the point of view of the wolf.

Place and Time: Place and time are not identified in the story.

Audience: The source was created for those familiar with the story of **The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf**. This affects the reliability of the source, because it was created to persuade the audience to the wolf's innocence and therefore it does not present a balanced argument about what really happened.

Reason: This source was created with the purpose of presenting the wolf's side of the story. Although it presents a point of view omitted in the original version of the story, it does not represent an unbiased description of the events narrated within.

The Main Idea: In the story, the wolf explains that newspaper reporters purposely ignored his side of the story and labeled him as the big bad wolf. According to the wolf, the entire sequence of events was the result of a misunderstanding created out of the pigs' refusal to help him bake a cake for his dear grandmother.

Prior Knowledge: Being familiar with the original version of story allows me to make comparisons between the pigs' and the wolf's version of what transpired. Therefore I am able to identify the bias in both versions.

Significance: This source is significant because it adds another perspective to the telling of a familiar story. It allows the reader to compare the credibility of each story and therefore reach an educated conclusion as to what really happened.

Assessment Prompt

Historical analysis involves the discovery and interpretation of evidence to evaluate an event in time. In essence, there is no right or wrong answer, just different ways to interpret what has happened. It is your duty as a historian to evaluate conflicting evidence and assess its credibility.

- Having completed a primary source analysis of both versions of the same story, write a comparative essay that answers the following question:

*Analyze the credibility of **The Three Little Pigs** by James Marshall, in relation to **The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs** by Jon Scieszka, Lane Smith (Illustrator), based on the source of the documents and the author's points of view. Based on your analysis, which story do you believe to be true?*

- In order to successfully complete this assignment you must write a comparative essay which:
 1. Has a relevant thesis and supports that thesis with evidence from the documents.
 - a. Addresses comparison of the issues or themes specified.
 2. Analyzes the documents in as many appropriate ways as possible.
 - a. Provides a minimum of three supporting details that correspond to each point of view (story)
 3. Takes into account both the sources of the documents and the authors' points of view.
 4. Makes at least one or two relevant, direct comparisons between or among the stories.

*** You may use your primary source worksheets to create your essay ***

Suggested Assessment Rubric

Criteria	Commendable	Acceptable	Acceptable with Changes
Has a relevant thesis and supports that thesis with evidence from the documents.			
Addresses comparison of the issues or themes specified.			
Analyzes the documents in as many appropriate ways as possible.			
Provides a minimum of three supporting details that correspond to each point of view (story)			
Takes into account both the sources of the documents and the authors' points of view.			
Makes at least one or two relevant, direct comparisons between or among the stories.			

Sample Venn Diagram

