Library of Congress Activity: Analyzing Primary Sources

**Objectives**

* Students will be able to analyze primary sources for specific details.
* Students will be able to locate primary sources on a topic.

**Common Core State Standards**

* [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.7](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RI/11-12/7/): Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.
* [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RH/6-8/1/): Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
* [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.6](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RH/6-8/6/)Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).

**Directions**

1. Go to <http://busyteacher.org/4686-33-controversial-topics-and-how-to-teach-them.html> and choose a controversial topic.
2. Then go to <http://www.loc.gov> and locate three primary source documents on the topic of your choice.
3. Using Prezi ([prezi.com](https://prezi.com/)) create a presentation answering the following questions:

* What was the popular position of society during the time period of your primary sources?
* How can the supporters of each side of the issue use the same primary source to support their position?
* Why do you think people thought that way during the time period of each of your primary sources?

1. Once completed, you will give a 3-5 minute presentation on the information you learned.

**Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| Primary Sources | Student has three primary sources. | Student has two primary sources. | Student has one or zero primary sources. |
| Presentation | Presentation is 3-5 minutes and covers all the information they researched. | Presentation is 3-5 minutes, but does not cover all the information they researched. | Presentation is less than 3 minutes or more than 5 minutes. |
| Accuracy | The details written are completely accurate and relate to the primary sources chosen. | The details written are somewhat accurate and slightly relate to the primary sources chosen. | The details written are not accurate and do not relate to the primary sources chosen. |
| Details | Student fully answers numbers 3 and 4 in the directions. | Student only answers number 3 or only answers number 4 in the directions. | Student does not answer 3 or 4 in the directions. |
| Citations | Student accurately cites their sources using MLA format. | Student makes minimal mistakes citing their sources using MLA format. | Student do not accurately cite their sources and/or does not use MLA format. |

Primary Sources \_\_\_\_ x 1 = \_\_\_\_ / 3

Presentation \_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_ / 6

Accuracy \_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_ / 6

Details \_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_ / 6

Citations \_\_\_\_ x 1 = \_\_\_\_ / 3

**Total: \_\_\_\_ / 24**