Name:	Date:
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SOAPSTone: Primary Source Analysis

"SOAPSTone" is an acronym that can be used to analyze primary and secondary sources (including letters, journal entries, articles, charts, etc.). The acronym breaks down the pertinent parts of a given source, allowing you to analyze that source and assess its significance and/or validity. This strategy serves as a building block for evaluating frame of reference & point of view in essay writing, particularly in a document-based essay question (DBQ). At times, students may need to draw inferences from the documents. This means that one has to look for meaning and messages implied but perhaps not specifically indicated by the images or text of the document.

Source Title:

Subject	What is the document about? What is the main idea?		
Occasion	Where was the document produced?	When was the document produced?	
	Is it a primary or secondary source?		
	If it is a primary source, how does it fit into the (context) of the his	tory/events & happenings of the time?	
Audience	For whom was the document initially written?		
Purpose	What is the author's purpose? What is the significance of why the document was created?		
Speaker & POV	Who produced the material/who is the speaker?		
(Bias)	What is his/her background or status AND how might that affect	nis/her <u>point of view</u> ?	PROGRESS CHART 6 4
Tone	What is the overall tone (attitude, emotion) inherent in the docum	ent?	5 3 4 2
	What conclusions can it help you draw about the author's state o	f mind or intent?	0 0

Comments:

Name:	Date:



OPTIC: Primary Source Analysis

"OPTIC" is an acronym that can be used to analyze visual sources (ex: political cartoons, charts, maps, graphs). The acronym provides five easy steps for analysis of a visual source in parts and as a whole.

Primary Source Title:

Overview	Conduct a brief overview of the visual. What do you see as a whole?
Parts	Focus on the parts of the visual (read labels, look for symbols, study the details). What do the individual parts/symbols mean or represent?
Title	Is there a title? What does it tell you about the visual?
Interrelationships	What relationship do each of the parts (and title) have to one another? What is the main idea of the visual as a whole?
Conclusion	Now draw a conclusion about the visual. Why was it provided? What is the significance or message? What does it say about history?