

Assignment I: Primary Source Analysis (10%)
HIST 1200/1201: History and Trump
Due Friday, September 29, 2017 by 5:00PM

Directions:

1. Explore Harvard University's digital collection, "Aspiration, Acculturation, and Impact: Immigration to the United States, 1789-1930." (<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration/>).
2. Find and select a primary source from the collection to analyze. I would recommend browsing the collection by "Form/Genre," "Notable People," or "Topics" and/or searching for keywords that you are interested in.
3. Keep in mind, because of space limitation, you will want to choose a primary source that is not too short (1 paragraph), but also not too long (10 pages). Take some time to explore the database and find a source that both interests and that you feel you can analyze completely in 3-4 pages.
4. Refer to the questions below as you analyze this source.
5. You want to give the reader enough of the nuts-and-bolts (who, what, where, when, etc.) so that they are familiar with the source, its author, and context, while also including higher-level analysis about the historical importance or significance of the source.
6. **Choose a minimum of eight of the questions listed below.** Do not try to include answers to *all* of the questions in your final paper, but select a mix of questions that will allow you to fully introduce the reader to the source while also explaining its larger significance.
7. Write a formal essay analyzing the source and its historical importance or significance, between **750-1,000 words (3-4 pages)** in length.

Format Guidelines:

- Evaluations must be submitted as Word documents and must be written in formal English essay form (no bullet points or question formats).
- Include your name and page numbers.
- At the end of your evaluation, include a citation for the primary source formatted using the Chicago Manual of Style. Use this webpage for reference:
<http://guides.lib.purdue.edu/c.php?g=352889&p=2378064>.

Questions:

- What kind of source is it? What is the medium? (ex. written diary, oil painting, etc.)
- Who created this source?
- When did they create it?
- Is this the original source (ex. are you holding the physical diary itself)? If not, what are the filters it passed through to reach you, the reader? (ex. selectively quoted in an article, printed in a book, etc.)
- What is the general message or content of this source?
- Who is its intended audience(s)?
- Did the author have any reasons for creating it? If so, what were those reasons?

- If the author is describing something, how far removed are they from the events or information they are describing? Are they reliable?
- What is the potential bias of the author and what are the stakes for them in authoring the source?
- What is the historical context in which it was created? What was happening at the time/place it was created that might be important to know?
- What does this source tell you about the time and place in which it was written?
- What's missing from the source? Did the creator leave out anything important?
- How does this source compare to other primary sources from that period/place or related to the same topic? Do they convey the same information?
- How does this source relate to secondary sources (books, articles, etc.) about this topic? Does it support or undermine any arguments that you've read?
- What kind of questions does this source raise? What would you need or want to know more about?
- What are some historical research topics that might use this source?
- What is a tentative thesis statement (historical argument or interpretation) you might make using this source as your evidence?