Primary Source Analysis Worksheet
Photograph/s

This worksheet can be used to analyze different photographs and understand their meaning. Every photograph is unique.

Fill out the sections relevant to the item you are analyzing.

Observing - What can you learn from observing the item?

1. First impression: What catches your attention when you first look at the photograph? ____________________________________________

2. What type of photograph is this? (family portrait, group photo, landscape, event photo, etc.)

3. Describe what you see in the photograph (color, subject, subject matter, theme, places, things, etc)

4. Describe the subject's surroundings.
   a. ____________________________________________
   b. ____________________________________________

5. Write three adjectives to describe the photograph.
   __________________  __________________  __________________

6. Does the photograph contain text in or around it? What is written? In which language?
   ____________________________________________

Understanding - Using prior knowledge and analytical skills, reference books and online research to understand the context and meaning of the item.

1. Why do you think the photographer took the photograph? What was its purpose?
   ____________________________________________

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2. What can be learned from the photograph about when and where it was taken?
____________________________________________________________________

3. Why do you think someone kept the photograph? Why might it have been important to them?
____________________________________________________________________

4. What conclusions can be drawn from examining the details of the photograph?
____________________________________________________________________

5. Give the photograph a title.
____________________________________________________________________

Connecting – What does the item mean to you? What are your impressions of the item? How does this item connect to your own life and experiences?

1. What is your personal opinion of the figure or event depicted in the photograph?
____________________________________________________________________

2. What else would you like to know about the photograph? (ie, What questions would you like to ask the people in the photograph or the photographer?)
____________________________________________________________________

3. Which three of your own photographs have the most meaning for you? Why are they meaningful?
____________________________________________________________________

Creating – How does the item inspire you? Use what you have learned to create something new.

Choose from the suggestions below:

- Write an article or journal entry to accompany the photograph.
- Do you ever come across similar subjects as the one portrayed in the photograph? Create your own version of the photograph. Make a class display of the original photograph and the modern-day versions. Use Padlet to create an online display.
- How might this photograph look today? Search the internet for current photographs of the same place or event.
- Make a fake Facebook page for the people featured in the photograph.
- Make a brochure for the place featured in the photograph.

How did it go? Let us know! learning@nli.org.il