

## Considerations for Selecting Primary Sources

### Before Selecting – Questions to Ask

- **What** do my students already know?
- **Which** learning standards or essential questions are being addressed?
- **How** will the item be used? (e.g., to introduce a topic? build understanding? assess learning?)

### While Selecting - Characteristics to Look For

#### **Audience: *Will this primary source meet the needs and interests of my students?***

- ✓ Invites close examination, questioning, and further investigation
- ✓ Of interest
- ✓ Age-appropriate content
- ✓ Appropriate reading level
- ✓ Appropriate length (if excerpted, original meaning is preserved)

#### **Context: *Will my students will be able to place this primary source in historical context?***

- ✓ Creator name and/or publication date are available
- ✓ Useful bibliographic information is available
- ✓ Contextual clues in the item itself
- ✓ Absence of confusing extraneous markings or annotations
- ✓ Item was created around the time or topic under study in my classroom

#### **Point of view: *Will my students will be able to identify point of view?***

- ✓ Item's purpose and/or target audience is discernable
- ✓ Students can learn more about the creator or circumstances of creation
- ✓ Other items with differing perspectives are available for use with this item

#### **Logistics: *Will I be able to use this item successfully in my own classroom setting?***

- ✓ Clarity, resolution (images, films)
- ✓ Readability/legibility of text/handwriting
- ✓ Clarity of sound/background noise (sound recordings, video)
- ✓ Ability to zoom in on details if needed (online images, maps)
- ✓ Able to print and/or display the item

Lesson Topic:	
Grade Level:	
<b>What</b> do your students already know?	
<b>Which</b> learning standard(s) and essential question(s) are being addressed?	<i>Common Core "Portrait":</i>
	<i>Essential/Investigative Question(s):</i>
<b>How</b> will the item be used? (e.g., to introduce a topic? build understanding? assess learning?)	
<b>Audience:</b> <i>How will this source meet the needs and interests of my students?</i>	
<b>Context:</b> <i>How will my students will be able to place this source in historical context?</i>	
<b>Point of view:</b> <i>How will my students will be able to identify point of view?</i>	
<b>Logistics:</b> <i>How will I be able to use this item successfully in my classroom setting?</i>	