

Audio

Five steps with guiding questions to help you understand and analyze the primary source

1 Identify the Source	When was this audio recording made?
	Where was this audio recording made?
	Who made this audio recording? Was it taken by an amateur sound recorder or a professional?
2 Place the Source in Context	What's the historical context of this audio recording?
	Who can you identify speaking in the audio recording? Are there other sounds besides talking?
	Is there an introduction or narration accompanying this audio recording?
3 Analyze the Source Content	Who or what is the subject of this audio recording?
	Is the audio of an event, an interview, or something else?
	Does the audio record something that happened as part of a normal course of events, or was the audio artificially recorded or set up by someone?
4 Assess the Source Perspective	Does the audio record how something sounded, or does it "tell a story" by what it includes?
	If the audio recording is "telling a story," what is that story? Is there a particular perspective on the part of the sound recorder or the subject of the audio recording?
	Was the audio recorder trying to convey or capture a particular mood?
	Is there a particular historical or social background to the audio recording?
	How do you think viewers would react to the audio recording? Would everyone have the same reaction?
5 Evaluate the Source	Do you think this is an effective or useful audio recording?
	Why was this audio recording important at the time it was made, and why is important now for what it can tell us?
	What connections can you make from this audio recording to politics, issues, culture and society, faith and religion, and historical change over time?
	Does comparing this audio recording with other sources, past or present, provide valuable insight?
	Can you tie this audio recording into key themes, questions, controversies, and debates?