

Speech

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

1 Identify the Source	Who delivered this speech?
	When was this speech made?
	Where was this speech made? What was the setting?
	What was the occasion for this speech?
2 Place the Source in Context	What's the historical context of this speech? What is the background or reason for it?
	Who would have been hearing this speech? What expectations would they have had?
	Was this a formal or informal speech?
	Was this speech an unusual event, or something done regularly?
3 Analyze the Source Content	What is the subject of the speech?
	What is the speaker's central message?
	What type of language does the speaker use?
4 Assess the Source Perspective	How does the speaker convey information and make a point?
	What is the tone of the speech?
	Is the speaker advocating a certain action (or inaction?)
	Does the speaker have a particular bias or perspective?
	How does the speaker try to motivate or convince people using this poster?
	How do you think listeners reacted to the speech?
5 Evaluate the Source	Do you think this speech is an effective one?
	Why is this speech important? Why was it important to the people who heard it, and why is important now for what it can tell us?
	What connections can you make from this speech to politics, issues, culture and society, faith and religion, historical change over time, etc.?
	Does comparing this speech with other sources, past or present, provide valuable insight?
	How can you tie this speech into key themes, questions, controversies, and debates?