

Video

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

1 Identify the Source	When was this video made?
	Where was this video made?
	Who took the video? Was it taken by an amateur videographer, a professional, or by a satellite?
2 Place the Source in Context	What's the historical context of this video?
	What people, objects, or other elements can you identify in the video?
	Is there narration that provides you with additional information?
3 Analyze the Source Content	Who or what is the subject of this video?
	Is the video of an event, a person, or something else?
	Does the video show something that happened as part of a normal course of events, or was the video artificially arranged by the videographer?
4 Assess the Source Perspective	Does the video show how something looked, or does it “tell a story” by what it includes?
	If the video is “telling a story,” what is that story? Is there a particular perspective on the part of the videographer or the subject of the video?
	Was the videographer trying to convey or capture a particular mood?
	Is there a particular historical or social background to the video?
	How do you think viewers would react to the video? Would everyone have the same reaction?
5 Evaluate the Source	Do you think this is an effective video?
	Why was this video 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 video to politics, issues, culture and society, faith and religion, and historical change over time?
	Does comparing this video with other sources, past or present, provide valuable insight?
	Can you tie this video into key themes, questions, controversies, and debates?