Analyzing Primary Sources (simpler language)

Document Title:_______________________________________________

Context:

Author:

When was it written?

Tell something you know about the time, place, or other things happening at the same time.

Purpose (Why was the document created?)

Audience (Who was the document created for?)

Understanding the Source:

What event does the document talk about?

What are the main ideas?

What feelings does the author seem to have?

What outcomes does the author expect? From whom?

Evaluating/Interpreting the source:

Center for Gifted Education
The College of William and Mary
### Authenticity/Reliability
(Could the source be invented, edited or mistranslated? What corroborating evidence do you have about the source? Does the author know enough about the topic to discuss it?)

### Representative
(How typical is the source of others of the same period? What other information might you need to find this out?)

### What could the consequences of this document be?
(What would happen if the author’s plans were carried out? What could happen to the author when people read this? How might this document affect or change public opinions?)

### What were the actual consequences?
What really happened as a result of this document?
- Short-term

- Long-term

### What new or different interpretation does this source provide about the historical period?