



## Determining Bias in Primary Sources

**Directions:** Answer the following questions as you inspect the Department of Justice documents.

*Document Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly summarize the information in the document, including names, events and dates.

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Who wrote the document? Who did they write it for? Why did they write it?

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Was the writer present at the events described? How does he know about the events?

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Was this document written at the time of events described? Or later? If later, how much later?

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Do you think the writer was neutral about the events he described? Or was he influenced by outside factors when writing the document? Support your answer with details from the text and/or your knowledge of the historical period.

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Was the writer trying to persuade his audience? Or was he simply reporting the facts? What specific words in the document let you know?

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What is your overall assessment of this document? Is it trustworthy and/or biased? Why do you think that?

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