

Learning with Primary Sources Workshop Series

Essential Question:

How do primary sources challenge and inspire our memory, reason, and imagination?

Workshop Two: The Art of Reading Primary Sources

Goals

Understanding

- Primary sources are both like a puzzle and a puzzle piece.

Knowledge

- Primary sources foster student literacy skills such as the ability to deconstruct different media.
- Analysis tools are used to draw meaning from primary sources.
- American Memory contains multiple collections in a variety of formats that lend themselves to interdisciplinary learning.

Skills

- Interpret primary sources using differentiated analysis tools.
 - Recognize differentiated instruction in terms of instructional readiness level and learning profile (interest and learning style).
 - Identify literacy strategies to comprehend primary sources in different media.
 - Use search strategies to locate items in American Memory and bibliographic records.
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Model Activities Using LOC Primary Sources

- “When is a Source a Primary Source?” (Handbook p. 14)
- “Primary Source Investigations” (Handbook p. 57 – 74)

Performance task:

Analyze model activity for:

- Best Instructional Practices
- Learning process using primary sources
- Knowledge gained about the Library of Congress



LOC Search Strategy

- Use a Researcher’s Guide to American Memory (Handbook p. 17 - 34).

Performance task:

- Investigate American Memory and identify useful resources.

Patron Actions – What is your purpose for visiting the LOC today?

Visitor Use the “How Can I Find More” directions from “Primary Source Investigations” to find and save primary sources.

Researcher Search American Memory Collections using Subject Links (Handbook p.21 – 34).

Docent Search across a limited selection of collections to find and save primary sources to create a collection for students to examine. Save results in Word, PowerPoint, or Excel (Handbook p. 79 – 80).

Performance task:

- Share brainstormed ideas of classroom applications using the model activities.

Assessment

- Complete self-assessment on abilities to choose appropriate LOC search topics and save items.

Exit Card

- What two questions would you like students to ask when examining a primary source?
- Identify a topic and your research goal for this topic.

Follow-up Activities

- Identify skills students need to interpret primary sources and possible classroom applications.
- Create and implement primary source-based learning experiences.