

Using Music as a Primary Source

Describe:

- Background of piece- Title, composer and composer's background, date, events happening in the country/region at the time, venue
- What did you hear? How would you describe the music?
 - Is it an instrumental piece? What instruments (brass, woodwinds, string, percussion) are being used?
 - Is there a voice in this piece? What language/dialect is being sung?

Analyze:

- Compositional and Performance Style: Use musical terms to analyze the music you just described (beat, instrumentation, crescendo, dissonance, foreground, background, melody, percussion, phrasing, range, register, rhythm, tempo, texture, timbre, vibrato, vocals, etc.)
- The words and syntax of the song lyrics
- Do you sense any themes/connections in the music?

Interpret:

- Motivation of the composer
- Purpose/intentions of the piece
- Impact on the audience
- How did it make you feel?
- Determine what the composer is trying to do.
- What is the music doing?