

FUND FOR TEACHERS

USING PRIMARY SOURCES

You have probably collected many videos, images, and documents. Instead of using everything at once, use them strategically. Use this list to spark ideas:

INTRODUCE A TOPIC

Ask students to analyze, interpret, or respond to a specific primary source (or set) to kick off your class session or lesson unit.

To Try: Embed your primary sources into a Building Background Knowledge Workshop, a Carousel Brainstorm, Infer the Topic or a Chalk Talk. (EL Education, 2014).

CONTEXTUALIZE HISTORY

Use the primary source sets to help students make connections between past and present.

To Try: After learning about a time or topic, display your primary sources in a Gallery Walk (EL Education, 2014). Ask students to analyze the primary sources and make connections to the history they have learned.

CONTEXTUALIZE LITERATURE

Use the primary source sets to add historical and cultural context to works of literature.

To Try: A Jigsaw or Chalk Talk (EL Education, 2014) could be used to help students make connections between the text and the primary sources you have.

DRIVE INQUIRY

After analyzing the primary sources, ask students to write their own inquiry questions. Use student-generated questions to drive class discussion, future study and/or student research.

To Try: Ask students to capture their thinking on strips of paper. Then, have them share, group, and organize their questions. These could be taped/glued on anchor chart to return to throughout the study.

BUILD STUDENTS' INDEPENDENT RESEARCH SKILLS

Your primary sources can be valuable tools to spur student inquiry and deeper understanding.

To Try: Ask students pick one of the sources, ask questions and develop a research project on that topic.

COMPARE

After analyzing the primary sources from your summer learning experience, compare them with other primary source resources. Use this comparison to drive inquiry to develop deeper understanding of the place or issue over time.

To Try: Find primary resources from a different period, on the same topic. Some places to look might be....

- [Digital Public Library of America](#)
- [Library of Congress](#)
- Smithsonian – [National Museum of American History](#)

USE AS A MODEL

After students have had exposure to your primary source, you can ask students to use the source as a model for something they create.

To Try: After students study an image of a letter you took, they might craft their own letter using the voice of the time period.

RESOURCES:

Ten Ways to Use the Primary Sources Sets in Your Classroom. (2016). *Digital Public Library of America*. <https://dp.la/news/10-ways-to-use-the-primary-source-sets>

Common Core ELA Curriculum: Appendix: Protocols and Strategies. (2014). *EL Education Inc.* New

York https://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/appendix_protocols_and_resources.pdf