Guidelines for Using Primary Sources

- 1. Determine what is usable in the document
- 2. Decide how the document can be dropped into the curriculum.
- 3. Relate the document to larger issues or concepts of study.
- 4. Determine what personal application the document has for students.
- 5. Establish the context of the document.
- 6. Work directly with the document.
- 7. Use documents to raise questions for further research.
- 8. Use documents when longer reading assignments would be too much for the time available.
- 9. Allow the student to become the historian and examine the document as a historian's tool.

Developed by the education staff of the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC, 20408.