



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Analyzing a Diary, Memoir, or Other Written Primary Source

1. Who wrote the account? (Be sure to include the author's nationality and position – not just the name.)
2. When did he/she write it, and what is happening in the area at the time of the writing?
3. To whom is the author writing or speaking? Who is his/her audience? How does the audience affect what the author is saying and how he/she is saying it?
4. What does the author say, and why do you think he/she found this information important enough to include in the story?
5. What can you learn about the war – or about people who fought in the war – from the reading?
6. What questions do you have about it?

Analyzing a Photo or Drawing

1. Who took the photo or did the artwork? (Probably you won't have the name of the artist/photographer, but what country – or at least what side in the war – is the person from?) How does the artist's perspective (nationality, gender, favored side in the war) affect his/her work?
2. Describe what you see in the art/photo. (You may use any caption underneath to help you.)
3. What does the artist/photographer want to show in the picture? Why do you think he/she did it? Why do you think it was chosen for inclusion in a particular book or webpage?
4. What can you learn about the war – or about people who fought in the war – from the photo or artwork?
5. What questions do you have about it?