

Fort Ticonderoga—Education Department
An Introduction to Using Primary Sources with Students

Use this sheet to write down everything you did yesterday from the time you ate lunch until you went to bed. You have seven minutes.

Lunch—What did you eat for lunch? Where?
Afternoon Activities/Work—What did you do during the afternoon?
Travel—Did you travel from one place to another? How? Where?
Supper/Dinner—What did you eat for supper? Where? With whom?
Evening Activities—What did you do during the evening?

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Historians in Group A

It is the year 2117. You are historians researching the first decades of the 21st century. You have come across the accompanying primary sources from the year 2017 that you hope will help you in your current study. You are researching popular entertainments of the first decades of the 21st century (2001-2020). What can you learn from the sources provided?

Movies—Did your subject watch any movies? Where? How?
Television—Did your subject watch TV? Live or DVR? What did they watch?
Radio/MP3 Player—Did your subject listen to music? How?
Internet/Video Games—Did your subject use the internet and/or play video games? How did he/she use the internet? On what device?
Other—What other modes of entertainment did your subject use?

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Historians in Group B

It is the year 2117. You are historians researching the first decades of the 21st century. You have come across the accompanying primary sources from the year 2017 that you hope will help you in your current study. You are researching the diet and “foodways” of the first decades of the 21st century (2001-2020). What can you learn from the sources provided?

Meals—Did your subject mention specific meals (lunch, supper, snack)?
Foods—What types of foods did your subject mention?
Venues—Where did your subject eat and with whom?
Brand Names—Did your subject mention brand names (either restaurant chains or food product brands)?
Other—What other items related to foodways did your subject mention?

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Historians in Group C

It is the year 2117. You are historians researching the first decades of the 21st century. You have come across the accompanying primary sources from the year 2017 that you hope will help you in your current study. You are researching modes of transportation during the first decades of the 21st century (2001-2020). What can you learn from the sources provided?

Travel—Did your subject mention moving from place to place?
Modes—What types of travel (walking, driving, etc.) did your subject mention?
Propulsion—What type of energy was used to move around?
Brand Names—Did your subject mention brand names?
Other—What other items related to transportation did your subject mention?

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Historians in Group D

It is the year 2117. You are historians researching the first decades of the 21st century. You have come across the accompanying primary sources from the year 2017 that you hope will help you in your current study. You are researching lifestyles of the first decades of the 21st century (2001-2020). What can you learn from the sources provided?

Travel—Did your subject mention moving from place to place?
Entertainment—Did your subject mention things he/she did for entertainment?
Foodways—Did your subject mention consuming food? If so, was there a social aspect to it? Was it at home or out?
Consumer Goods—Did your subject mention using or purchasing any consumer goods?
Other—What other items related to lifestyles did your subject mention?

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Historians in Group E

It is the year 2117. You are historians researching the first decades of the 21st century. You have come across the accompanying primary sources from the year 2017 that you hope will help you in your current study. You are researching vocations of the first decades of the 21st century (2001-2020). What can you learn from the sources provided?

Jobs—Did your subject mention any specific jobs he/she did?
Other Jobs—Can you make any inferences about jobs that exist based on your subject's notes?
Economy—Did your subject mention any exchange of services for money?
Professions—Did your subject mention any specific professions?
Other—What other items related to vocations did your subject mention?