

Hist. 321: Help for Primary Source Analysis (700 words)
Due: 5 March 2015 (in class)

Title page: Provide your original title, your name and e-mail address, the course number, and word count.

First page:

At the top of the page, give the correct bibliographical reference for your source. If you are using a document from Wilson's *Sourcebook*, follow this format:

“Title that Wilson gives to the document.” In *The Thirty Years War: A Sourcebook*, edited by Peter H. Wilson, page numbers (e.g. 113-15). New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

Your original title (already given on the title page)

Paragraph 1 (Introduction): Begin by summarizing in at most two sentences the main message of the primary source. End the paragraph with your argument: an answer to the question: How will the primary source contribute to your answer to the research question?

Paragraphs 2 and 3 (Body): Prove your argument by discussing the information, recurring concepts, themes, etc. in the primary source that you will take from the source in order to demonstrate how the source will contribute to your answer to the research question. **Do not** simply summarize the source!

Paragraph 4 (Conclusion): Briefly bring your essay to a decisive close. Do not repeat what you have already written. This is unimaginative. Assert the significance of your argument by, for example, reflecting on the wider context of the source: how does it relate to other primary sources on which you could draw to answer your research question? Alternatively, you could relate your chosen source for this assignment to its larger significance for the history of the Thirty Years War.

Notes:

1. In following the basic outline above, you, of course, have the freedom to have more than two paragraphs for the body of the essay. But remember you must accomplish your analysis in 700 words.
2. Use the Instructions for Written Assignments on pp. 5-8 of the syllabus as a checklist before submitting your essay. For example: Have you used 12-point font; paginated the essay; stapled the pages together in the right order; proofread your essay for clarity, correct grammar, style, and spelling; ensured that your essay is free of the slightest hint of plagiarism?
3. Follow the [prescribed format for footnotes and bibliography](#).