

Now or Never: The Yorktown Campaign

Secondary Source Analysis Worksheets

Developed for High School use

with the online video from George Washington's Mount Vernon

www.mountvernon.org/nowornever



For more about the George Washington and the Yorktown Campaign visit:
www.mountvernon.org/yorktowncampaign

George Washington's Mount Vernon created this 20 minute video to illustrate the last major battle of the Revolutionary War.

Use these graphic organizers to guide students in analyzing and evaluating secondary material as historic resources.

Activity developed in reference to the Historical Sources and Evidence (Dimension 2) of the C3 Framework.

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Below is a graphic organizer and guide to help analyze the secondary source:

www.mountvernon.org/nowornever

Who created this video?	
When was it created?	
Who was it created for?	
Why was this video created?	
Is this a trusted source for relevant information about the Yorktown Campaign? Why or why not?	
What might be different about this source if it were created by a different organization or in a different country?	
How does the format of this source impact the information we can draw from it?	
What are the strengths of this secondary source?	
What are the limitations of this secondary source?	



Pick one segment to review and compare it with a paired primary source:

- Battle of the Virginia Capes (primary source pairing: 8 September 1781 letter from the Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington
www.mountvernon.org/LafayetteetoWashingtonOctober1781)
- The Second Parallel (primary source pairing: 16 October 1781 letter from George Washington to Thomas McKean:
www.mountvernon.org/WashingtontoMcKeanOctober1781)

Remember no single source (primary or secondary) tells the whole story.

Reliable secondary sources are created from analyzing a variety of historic sources.

Identify information from the paired primary source referenced in the selected segment of the video.	
Identify information from the selected segment of the secondary source video that did not come from the paired primary source.	
What evidence from this primary source <i>confirms</i> what you saw in the video segment?	
What evidence from this primary source <i>conflicts</i> with what you saw in the video segment?	
What research question could you investigate based on the confirmation or conflicts presented between the primary and secondary sources?	