Analyzing Bias

SWBAT:
- Write in a clear, concise, analytical format.
- Analyze bias in primary and secondary sources.

Task:

For one document, you must analyze the bias. As we know in history (and life), not all authors/sources give true and accurate accounts of events. You must take your understanding of the author and their background to determine the accuracy of their claims.

Criteria:

- Identify prejudice or preference in the author’s writing.
  Consider:
  - Does the author fall in line with the context (what events have been happening) of history?
  - Does the author try to persuade the reader in any particular direction?
  - Is the author exaggerating their view or experiences?
  - Does the author use negative language toward any particular group?
  - Has the author limited or left out important information?
  - Is the author using more opinions or facts?

- Identify several forming background traits or occupation of the author (answer what you can from the document AND prior knowledge).
  Consider:

- Identify any significant differences in time from when the event occurred and when the author wrote/published their document.
  - Do they give a true first-hand account?
  - Did they wait a year or more to write about the event?

- Explain how each of these elements come together to prove the author is an unreliable source.
Rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>0-1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify prejudice or preference in the author’s writing (uses false information, missing key information, excessively persuasive [opinion v. facts]).</td>
<td>Did not identify prejudice or preference.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Identified prejudice or preference.</td>
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<td>Identify several forming background information or occupation of the author.</td>
<td>Identifies few defining background traits and/or occupation of the author.</td>
<td>Identifies some defining background traits and/or occupation of the author.</td>
<td>Identifies several defining background traits and/or occupation of the author.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify any specific time differences between an event and the date of the writing/publication.</td>
<td>Does not identify time lapses (if present).</td>
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<td>Identifies time lapses (if present).</td>
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<td>Explain why the author could be considered unreliable or biased.</td>
<td>Does not explain if the author is unreliable or biased.</td>
<td>Explains, leaving out important details, if the author is unreliable or biased.</td>
<td>Explains in full detail if the author is unreliable or biased.</td>
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