

Over the course of the semester, students will write a total of five formal document analyses. Each analysis will count as a project grade. So, take them seriously and do the best you can. Analyses must address each of the following questions:

- * What? What type of document is it? What is the content? Summarize the important issues raised in the document.
- * Who? Who is the author? Go beyond the name. Consider the author's background. Characteristics such as political persuasion, gender, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, and social class can be important.
- * When? When was the document written? Go beyond identifying the date. Historical context is significant. What major events are related to the document?
- * Where? Where was the document written? This can be significant.
- * Why? Why did the author compose the document? Try to determine the author's motive or original purpose for writing the document. One may have to make an educated guess based on historical evidence.
- * So what? Why is the document significant? Consider both short-term and long-term impact.

The analyses must be written in complete sentences. Although students do not have to address the key questions in any particular order or format, one ought to write in a logical sequence and organized fashion. Analyses should be concise and include a main idea and center of gravity. Support your analyses with evidence and argumentation. Consult sources other than the document itself, such as your textbook or other outside readings. Include a bibliography if you use sources other than those that are provided by your instructor.

Analyze and evaluate the Truman Doctrine and the containment policy. Consider the origins of the policy as well as its impact on events. Consult the document set of related sources in addition to the relevant sources posted on this site. Pay special attention to Kennan's "Sources of Soviet Conduct," NSC-68, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and Kennan's criticisms of the way in which the containment policy was implemented.