Franciscan School of Theology
at the UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

TEMPLATE FOR ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES: TEXTS

Instructions: Utilize this template to complete your analysis of a primary source. This template can also be adapted for other forms of primary sources: including, architecture, artifacts, arts, etc.

1. WHAT
What kind of document is this? What genre? How does that genre affect the content?

2. WHEN
When was it written/compiled?

3. WHO: AUTHOR/EDITOR/TRANSLATOR
By whom was it written/compiled? In what capacity did this person(s) write/compile this? What is the POV (point of view/bias) of the writer?

Has this document been edited? If so, by whom, when, for what purpose?

Has this document been translated? If so, by whom, when, for what purpose?

4. WHY?
For what purpose was this document written?

For what purpose was this document preserved? How was it preserved?

5. **HOW?**
How was this document circulated/or was it?

6. **CONTENT**
What is the content of the document?

7. **Whom did this document affect?**
Is the reception of this document known/revealed in this piece?

Are there other documents that tell a different version/different side of the issues here?