

Name: _____

Analyzing Media Sources

Introduction: Around the world, people rely on the media to keep them informed about the most important issues that affect them, their families, and their neighbors. There are many types of media sources, including articles, editorials, social media posts, and videos. The information provided by the media helps people form opinions and ask tough questions of their governments. In a democracy, where the interests of the public are supposed to define how the government acts, this information is vital to ensuring that a country functions well.

In this activity, you will examine editorials addressing the recent crisis in U.S.-Iran relations. An editorial is different from a news article. Editorials represent the personal opinion of the author. In an editorial, the author seeks to convince readers of their opinion on an issue. Authors may selectively use or omit facts to convince readers of their opinion.

Instructions: Review the definitions below. Read the sources your group has been assigned and fill out “Part 1: Source Analysis” for each source. Then answer the key question for your sources in “Part II: Sharing Findings.” Be prepared to share your response to this question with your classmates.

Definitions

Extrajudicial—Not legally authorized. Critics claim the assassination of Solomeini was an extrajudicial killing because it violated international law.

Asymmetric Response—When a relatively weaker combatant in a conflict use irregular methods or strategies to counteract the stronger opponent.

State Sovereignty—The right of a country to control what happens within its borders and make its own decisions free from outside interference.

Proxy—An unofficial military force armed, funded, and/or trained by a government.

Part 1: Source Analysis

Source #:

Source title:

Author, publication, and date:

Questions about the Source:

1. Does the author support or oppose current U.S. policy in Iran?

2. Summarize the author's main arguments.

3. What reasons does the author give to support their arguments and convince readers of their position?

Part 1: Source Analysis (continued)

Source #:

Source title:

Author, publication, and date:

Questions about the Source:

1. Does the author support or oppose current U.S. policy in Iran?

2. Summarize the author's main arguments.

3. What reasons does the author give to support their arguments and convince readers of their position?

Part II: Sharing Findings

Source Set 1—The Trump Administration’s Iran Policy

Key question: What is the author’s view on the key events that led up to the current crisis? How did the current situation arise?

Source 1A:

Source 1B:

Source Set 2—The Consequences of the Assassination

Key question: What is the author’s view on the consequences of the assassination?

Source 2A:

Source 2B:

Source Set 3—The Effects on People in Iran and Iraq

Key question: What is the author’s view on how recent events have affected people living in the region?

Source 3A:

Source 3B: