**Investigating Sources – Using OPCVL**

CHC2D – Canadian and World Studies Dept.

**Learning Goal:**

To continue discussing the value of analyzing and interpreting sources and introduce a format to do so for academic use.

**OPCVL – What Is It?**

The OPCVL model is a method to critically analyze a source, determine its value, and understand its limitations. In short, it is way to determine if a source is credible for further academic use.

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| **Origin** – This states the origins of the source.   * What is the title? * Who produced it? * When and where was it produced? * What type of document is it? (primary/secondary? speech, cartoon, magazine article, etc)   **Purpose** – *The purpose of the source…*   * Why was this produced? * Who was the intended audience?   **Content** – What information/evidence is provided to support the purpose?   * Only use information from the source itself; no outside information or personal bias * Try to pull as much information/evidence out as possible!   **Value**   * With reference to the origin, purpose and content, what is the value of the document for historians studying this event? * What ***can*** I learn from this source? * Avoid generalities and be specific   **Limitations**   * With reference to the origin, purpose and content, what are the limitations of the document for historians studying this event? * What ***can’t*** I learn from this source? * Avoid generalities and be specific   **Note on Bias** – Bias must not be used as a value or limit and should never be mentioned. All historical information has bias. Bias is not necessarily a problem in the source material itself, as long as it is properly assessed. |

**Using OPCVL – Japanese Canadian Internment**

**Task**

We will analyze two sources using this model, one as a class and one on your own.

**Steps**

* Get the CSI textbooks!
* Turn to pg. 93. As a class we’ll analyze Evidence 4.39 using the chart below.
* On your own or with a partner choose any other piece of Evidence in this chapter and analyze it on this sheet.

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| **Origin**  Title:  Author:  When:  Where:  Type of Source: |
| **Purpose**  Why?  Intended Audience: |
| **Content** (3 pieces of evidence that support the purpose)  1.  2.  3. |
| **Value**  1. (Origin)  2. (Purpose)  3. (Content) |
| **Limitations**  1. (Origin)  2. (Purpose)  3. (Content) |