Evaluating Historical Sources

Assess your primary source documents and fill in the following chart. Keep in mind the inquiry question: Who was responsible for the violence on Bloody Saturday?

	Source 1	Source 2	Source 3
Source What type of source is it? Who created it? When and where was it produced?			
Context What else was happening at the time this source was created? How might that have affected this source?			
Description What do you see? What do you notice that's important about this source? What can't you explain?			





Inferences about the perspective of the creator To what groups might the creator have belonged? Why do you think he or she made this source? Who do you think was the audience for this? What do you think the audience wanted to hear or see? How might the background of the creator and the audience influenced this source?		
Inferences to answer inquiry question What can you learn from examining the source? How does this source help you answer your inquiry question? Does it align or contradict what you know? What does it not tell you? What further questions do you have?		

Adapted from "Explain the Image" by the Critical Thinking Consortium.



