

Document Analysis Worksheet

1. What kind of document is this? _____

2. Date(s) of document _____

3. Author (s) or creator (s) of the document:

4. Other information about the author(s) indicated on the document (position, title, etc.):

5. For what audience was the document written?

6. List three things the author wrote that you think are important:

7. Why do you think this document was written?

8. What evidence in the document helps you know why it was written? Quote from the document.

9. List two things the document tells you about life in the United States at the time it was written.

10. Write a question that the author has left unanswered by the document.

African Oral History

The Griots

Directions

Answer the following questions based on Alex Haley's "My Furthest Back Person" and the movie "Timbuktu."

1. What was the role of the griot in "My Furthest Back Person"? What did he tell Alex Haley about his ancestor?
2. What did the griot need in order to perform his story of the Kinte tribe?
3. How did the griot's story compare with Alex's grandmother's story of the African?
4. Based upon his story, how accurate is African oral history? Why?
5. Why was oral tradition important to the African society? Why would it have been important to slaves in the United States as well?
6. What was the role of the griot in the movie "Timbuktu"? What did he tell the host about Mansa Musa?
7. What was the host able to learn about Mali from what the griot said?
8. How were the experiences of Alex Haley and of the host on the DVD alike? How were their experiences different?
9. Do you think that oral tradition is still important to the African culture?
10. Do you think that, with more modern technology and advances in culture, Africans should abandon oral history for written history?