

Lesson plan by Zachary Conn

If you use it, please let me know at zconn@uidaho.edu

For more on this lesson, [see my History and Theory essay on pedagogy](#)

INTRO TO PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS PART 1: OLIVIA RODRIGO

Directions: Today in class we will collaboratively explore the techniques of primary source analysis by examining the song “Driver’s License” by Olivia Rodrigo. Then, you will work in small groups to write out the answers to each of the ten steps of primary source analysis listed below.

Our motto: *History is not an assortment of names and dates. It is a way of discovering who we are, where we've been, and where we're going.*

- 1) SPEAKER: Who is talking?
- 2) AUDIENCE: To whom is the speaker talking?
- 3) TIME: When did the text come into being?
- 4) PLACE: Where did the text come into being?
- 5) CONTEXT: What background information do you need to know to understand the text?
- 6) FORM: What genre (letter, book, newspaper article, song, image, social media post, etc.) did the speaker use to send their message?
- 7) MAIN MESSAGE: What is the main thing the speaker is trying to say to the audience? How can you tell? How does the text’s form reflect its content? Include a direct quotation in your response.
- 8) BIAS: How can you tell that the text reflects the speaker’s particular point of view? What do you think the speaker might have left out that another speaker on the same subject would have said? Include a direct quotation in your response.
- 9) INTERESTING MOMENT: What is something specific in the text that jumps out at you? Why do you find it interesting? Include a direct quotation in your response.
- 10) SIGNIFICANCE: Why is the text worth reading and analyzing today? What broader lessons about the source’s time period can we take away?

Lyrics of Olivia Rodrigo’s “Drivers License”

Written by Olivia Rodrigo and Dan Nigro

Released on the album *Sour* in 2021

I got my driver's license last week
Just like we always talked about
'Cause you were so excited for me
To finally drive up to your house

But today I drove through the suburbs
Crying 'cause you weren't around

And you're probably with that blonde girl
Who always made me doubt
She's so much older than me
She's everything I'm insecure about
Yeah, today I drove through the suburbs
'Cause how could I ever love someone else?

And I know we weren't perfect but I've never felt this way for no one
And I just can't imagine how you could be so okay now that I'm gone
Guess you didn't mean what you wrote in that song about me
'Cause you said forever now I drive alone past your street

And all my friends are tired
Of hearing how much I miss you but
I kinda feel sorry for them
'Cause they'll never know you the way that I do
Yeah, today I drove through the suburbs
And pictured I was driving home to you

And I know we weren't perfect but I've never felt this way for no one
Oh, and I just can't imagine how you could be so okay now that I'm gone
I guess you didn't mean what you wrote in that song about me
'Cause you said forever now I drive alone past your street

Red lights
Stop signs
I still see your face
In the white cars
Front yards
Can't drive past the places
We used to
Go to
'Cause I still f*cking love you, babe

Sidewalks
We crossed
I still hear your voice
In the traffic
We're laughing
Over all the noise
God, I'm so blue
Know we're through
But I still f*cking love you, babe

I know we weren't perfect but I've never felt this way for no one

And I just can't imagine how you could be so okay now that I'm gone
Guess you didn't mean what you wrote in that song about me
'Cause you said forever now I drive alone past your street
Yeah, you said forever now I drive alone past your street