Written Document Analysis Worksheet

Documents are primary sources that can tell us a lot about the people and times in which they were written. Use this worksheet to help you take a closer look at a document from Colonel McCormick or the Chicago Tribune.

1. What type of document is this? Newspaper, letter, advertisement etc.?
   ____________________________________________________________

2. Describe the document. What do you notice about it? Is it handwritten, typed, stained, does it have notes written on it?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. What time period (date/year) is the document from?
   ____________________________________________________________

4. Who wrote the document?
   ____________________________________________________________

5. Who was the audience for the document?
   ____________________________________________________________

6. Why do you think the document was written?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

7. Find evidence in the document to support your idea of why it was written.
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

8. What does this document tell you about life in Chicago at the time it was written?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

9. What is special about this document that caused it to be saved rather than thrown away?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

10. What question would you like to ask the author of the document?
    ____________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________