



## Archive Analysis Assignment History & Literature 98: Junior Tutorial | Fall 2013

This assignment aims for a multimedia and historical analysis of the archives of *Saudi Aramco World*. Your research will include both physical and [virtual](#) material from the 1960s to the 2000s. You will produce a two-pronged method of delivering your findings: (1) a **5-7 page (maximum) written paper**, double-spaced, 12-point font; (2) a **20-minute oral presentation** delivered in our tutorial. **Due date:** 8 October 2013.

### *Preparation:*

- As a first step, identify 5-7 issues from the archives. You may choose to focus on a particular decade (e.g. 1980s) or pick various issues from each available decade.
- Skim the issues looking for an event or topic that captures your interest. Ideally this historical or textual object should be prevalent among all your media sources (e.g. if “water” is a theme of interest, look for it in all the issues you’ve picked out), though this may not necessarily be the case.
- Take notes during this process. Bookmark images of interest. You will want to form a collection of at least 10-15 images for your oral presentation.
- Keep taking notes on your findings by analyzing your material historically, visually, and critically. This means that you will want to put the event or topic you have chosen into a larger perspective. How do vantage points, ideologies, or biases reflect how the event or topic was covered? How does the magazine interpret an event or topic? Do you agree or disagree with its interpretation? What additional insight can you bring to the coverage and your own knowledge about the event or topic?

### *Producing your findings:*

- **Written paper:**
  - You will produce a 5-7pp paper that not only lays out your primary source research in an expository fashion but critically analyzes its contents. Use your notes to expand your observations into critical thoughts. Keep in mind multiple facets of your archival findings: audience (who is this magazine produced for?), tone (what is the tonality of a given article?), visual structure (how does image placement on the page inform your reading?), among others.

- Remember: You should provide critical analysis of the assumptions and biases of the media sources, rather than simply drawing facts from them in order to provide a narrative of the historical events.
- **Oral presentation:**
  - Bring a selection (or all) of the 10-15 different images you saved in your research phase and discuss them as you reveal your findings. Your oral presentation should last around 20 minutes. It should be a stand-alone part of this assignment that relies on—but does not read verbatim—from your written work.
  - Be creative, historically specific, and self-critical with regard to what you have discovered. Walk us through what you have found, why it excites you, why you think we should pay it attention.