

## **Joan of Arc Primary Documents Packet**

Read through the following documents. The original documents from 1431 are at the top of the page. I have reworded them, to be easier to read below. Read which ever you like.

Write down the information from each document on your 'Guilty or Innocent' sheet. Make sure you choose a side (guilty or innocent) for each document. No document should be in the middle.

Put the document in the column that it argues for the best. Does it show Joan as more guilty or more innocent?

Work with your group members!! Everyone should find their answers together!!

When you are finished, decide how many documents you have in each category.

### Document 1

*Joan: "In my own country they call me Jeannette; since I came into France I have been called Jeanne. Of my surname I know nothing. I was born January 6th, 1412. My father is called Jacques d'Arc ; my mother, Ysabelle. I believe I learned all this from my mother. Hear me in confession, and I will say it willingly."*

*-Transcript from the Trial of Joan of Arc, 1431*

Joan: "When I was growing up, they called me Joanie. Once I began to fight, people have called me Joan. I don't know my last name. My birthday is January 6, 1412. My father's name is Jack and my mother's name is Jessabelle. My mother taught me everything I know. I will tell you whatever you want to know.

## Document 2

*And then did We forbid Jeanne, without Our permission, to leave the prison which had been assigned to her in the Castle, under pain of the crime of heresy.*

*"I do not accept such a prohibition," she answered; "if ever I do escape, no one shall reproach me with having broken or violated my faith, not having given my word to any one, whosoever it may be."*

*And as she complained that she had been fastened with chains and fetters of iron, We said to her:*

*"You have before, and many times, sought, We are told, to get out of the prison, where you are detained; and it is to keep you, more surely that it has been ordered to put you in irons."*

*-Transcript from the Trial of Joan of Arc, 1431*

Joan tried to escape jail. She jumped out her tower window.

The court told Joan that she could not leave prison until her trial was complete. If she tried to escape, she would be guilty. She would be a heretic.

Joan told the court that their rules did not apply to her. She told the court that her religion had nothing to do with her trying to escape prison because she had never admitted to anything.

The court had ordered that Joan wear handcuffs at all times. This was done to keep her safe.

### Document 3

*"...the Maiden lets you know that here, in eight days, she has chased the English out of all the places they held on the river Loire by attack or other means: they are dead or prisoners or discouraged in battle. Believe what you have heard about the earl of Suffolk, the lord la Pole and his brother, the lord Talbot, the lord Scales, and Sir Fastolf; many more knights and captains than these are defeated."*

*-Joan's Letter to the citizens of [Tournai](#), 25 June 1429; Quicherat*

A letter written to the French prince, by Joan, before she was captured.

I am writing to you today to tell you that we won the battle. I have chased the English out of Northern France. I have many important English prisoners.

#### Document 4

*And she said that, from the age of thirteen, she received revelation from Our Lord by a voice which taught her how to behave. And the first time she was greatly afraid. And she said that the voice came that time at noon, on a summer's day. And she said that the voice was hardly ever without a light, which was always in the direction of the voice. She said further that, after she had heard it three times, she knew that it was the voice of an angel.*

*She said also that this voice had always taken good care of her and it said to her that she ought to go often to church. And later it said to her that it was necessary that she should go into France.*

*And it said to her two or three times a week that she must leave and go into France. And that her father knew nothing of her going. And with this, it said to her that she must hurry and go and raise the siege of Orleans; and that she should go to Robert de Baudricourt, captain of Vaucouleurs; and that he would give her men to accompany her.*

*-Transcript of Joan's testimony at her trial, 1431*

Joan told the court that since she was thirteen years old, God had spoken to her. At first she was afraid, but God was kind and understanding. God taught her to go to church.

Later he asked her to save France, by leading the French army.

Since that day, God spoke to her 2-3 times each week, saying how important it was that SHE was the only one who could beat the English. God promised Joan that the French general would listen and give her an army to lead.

### Document 5

*You have said that, by God's command, you have continually worn man's dress, wearing the short robe, doublet, and hose attached by points; that you have also worn your hair short, cut en rond above your ears, with nothing left that could show you to be a woman; and that on many occasions you received the Body of our Lord dressed in this fashion, although you have been frequently admonished to leave it off, which you have refused to do, saying that you would rather die than leave it off, save by God's command. And you said further that if you were still so dressed and with the king and those of his party, it would be one of the greatest blessings for the kingdom of France; and you have said that not for anything would you take an oath not to wear this dress or carry arms; and concerning all these matters you have said that you did well, and obediently to God's command.*

*-Transcript from the Trial of Joan of Arc, 1431*

The judge said to Joan:

You say that God told you to dress like a man and to cut your hair like a man. He told you to hide the fact that you are a girl? You have been asked to dress like a girl and you have refused to do so. Are you saying that you would rather die than dress like a girl? Is dressing like a man that important to you?

You said that you can only save France if you are dressed like a man. How can you prove this? What if God commanded you to dress as a woman?

Joan: He does not. He commands I dress as a man.

### Document 6

*"I had her baptized and confirmed and brought her up in the fear of God. I taught her respect for the traditions of the Church as much as I was able to do given her age and simplicity of her condition. In her heart and despite her youth she would fast and pray for them with great devotion and fervor. She never thought, spoke or did anything against the faith. Certain enemies had her arraigned in a religious trial. Despite her disclaimers and appeals, both tacit and expressed, and without any help given to her defense, she was put through a perfidious, violent, iniquitous and sinful trial. For the damnation of their souls and in notorious, infamous and irreparable loss to me, Isabelle, and mine... I demand that her name be restored."*

*-Defense of Joan of Arc, by her mother, 1431*

Joan was baptized when she was a little girl. I taught her everything I know about my religion. She was a smart girl. She never did anything against her faith. She goes to church every weekend. The things you say in this trial are untrue. It is cruel to make such a good girl stand trial. She is innocent.

### Document 7

*Many times I heard Messire Guillaume Fronte, in his lifetime Cure of Domremy, say that Jeanne the Maid was a simple and good girl, pious, well brought up, and God-fearing, and without her like in the whole village. Often did she confess her sins; and, if she had had money, she would have given it to him, he told me, to say Masses. Every day, when he celebrated Mass, she was there. I heard it said by a great number of persons that Jeannette, when she went to Neufchâteau, lived with a worthy woman named La Rousse; and that she always remained in the company of her father and the other inhabitants of Domremy, who had fled there.*

*-Defense of Joan of Arc by her town priest, 1431*

I have heard many people say that Joan is a wonderful girl who did everything she was supposed to do. She went to church every week. She was very holy. She asked to go to mass more frequently as a child. She has never done anything improper. She is holy.



### Document 8

*Jeanne was a chaste maiden; she hated the women who follow in the train of armies. I saw her on the return from the coronation, pursuing one of them sword in hand: her sword was broken on this occasion. She was very vexed if she heard any of the soldiers swear. She reproved me much and strongly when I sometimes swore; and when I saw her I refrained from swearing. So far as I could judge, I always held her for an excellent Catholic, and a modest woman: she communicated often, and, at sight of the Body of Christ, shed many tears. In all she did, except in affairs of war, she was a very simple young girl; but for warlike things bearing the lance, assembling an army, ordering military operations, directing artillery-she was most skillful. Every one wondered that she could act with as much wisdom and foresight as a captain who had fought for twenty or thirty years. It was above all in making use of artillery that she was so wonderful.*

*-Defense of Joan of Arc, by her friend, the Duke of D'alencon*

Joan was a good girl. She never did anything wrong. She hated women who followed armies, begging for hand-outs. She was always so offended when someone cussed. She is always an excellent Catholic. She dressed nicely. She was also very talented at using a sword, spear, and giving orders. She was very smart. It was obvious to everyone that God was guiding her.