

Primary Sources related to Agrarianism

1. What do you know about the author or time period of this source (in addition to what is given in the introduction to the source) that might give you clues into the author's view of agrarianism?

READ THE ENTIRE SOURCE – as you read complete the following. You may need to read the source more than one time.

2. Circle words you do not know. List the words below and write a definition using the context of the word in the sentence/paragraph. Then look up the word and write the correct definition.

Unknown word	Proposed definition based on context	Actual definition

3. Underline statements by the author that are NEGATIVE views of farming or agriculture.

4. Draw a dotted line under statements by the author that are POSITIVE views of farming or agriculture.

5. Draw an **X** in the margins to show the details that surprised or interested you.

6. Review the basic ideas of an agrarian in the first column below. If you find sentences or paragraphs that reflect these views, **mark that paragraph or sentence with the number of the agrarian idea.**

You may find statements that are the OPPOSITE of an agrarian idea. **If you find opposite statements – write that in the 2nd column and note what the author believes that is the opposite.**

Basic ideas of an agrarian	Opposite of agrarian idea
1. Farming has a positive spiritual good and gives the farmer manliness, self-reliance, courage, moral integrity, and hospitality.	
2. Farming offers complete independence and self-sufficiency, because the farmer can always meet his basic needs of food and shelter.	
3. The farmer has a long historical and religious tradition and family is very important	
4. Industry, capitalism, and technology and cities encourage corruption, vice, and weakness and destroy independence and dignity	
5. Agricultural communities have brotherhoods of labor and cooperation (everyone one helps each other out) that is the model for an ideal social order	

7. Is this author describing the myth OR the reality of farming and agriculture?

Mark sentences that describe a myth with **M**

Mark sentences that describe reality with **R**

8. Write a paragraph in which you describe WHY you think the author's statements are mostly myth or mostly reality.