

HAPPY Document Analysis of Primary Sources

In order to make claims about historical phenomena, and to complete Document Based Question (DBQ) essays, various sources need to be analyzed for **H**istorical Context, **A**udience, **P**urpose, **P**oint of View, and **S**ignificance (**Why**).

HAPPY DOCUMENT ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY SOURCES		
Document Title: What is the name of the document you are examining?		
H	Historical Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where and when was the source produced? • Place it in the appropriate context – connect the document across time to earlier and later eras or across space to events happening in different places. • Do not just focus on the year of the document – what else happened that year? How might this affect its meaning? • What else can you remember that is NOT explicitly stated in the document, but could support the time and events surrounding the document?
A	Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the author’s intended audience? • How might this affect the validity and reliability of the document?
P	Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the author’s purpose for creating this source? • Why was this source produced – to persuade, to inform, as propaganda? • How might all of this affect its reliability?
P	Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you know about the author and his background? • What role is he/she in at the time of this document? What perspective does he/she have on the topic? From what point of view is he writing this document?
Y	Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What main idea is the source trying to convey? • Why is the source relevant to the general topic or specific issue under examination? • Does it reflect change over time? • Ask yourself, “So what?” in relation to the question asked. • HOW and WHY does this document support your thesis?
C&C	Compare & Contrast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What other documents produced during the same time period address the same topic or issue? • In what way(s) do the author(s) differ in their view(s) of the topic or issue? • In what way(s) do the author(s) agree on the topic or issue? • If applicable, how does the primary document under review support your thesis?

HAPPY DOCUMENT ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY SOURCES

Document Title:

H	Historical Context	
A	Audience	
P	Purpose	
P	Point of View	
Y	Significance	
C&C	Compare & Contrast	