

Analysis of Historical Documents

Chart for using historical documents

- A. Identify the document and put it into context
 - a. Type of document
 - i. Letter
 - ii. Speech
 - iii. Article
 - iv. Report...
 - b. Date, place where it was created and place where the document was received
 - c. Author(s)
 - i. Who was he?
 - ii. What do we know about him?
 - iii. What was his title, his position?
 - d. Audience
 - i. Who was the document's target audience? What do we know about him?
 - e. Historical context
 - i. What is the context surrounding this document? Does the context help us to better understand the document? How?

- B. Analysis of the text
 - a. Objective
 - i. According to the student, why was this document written? What was the author's objective (describe, convince, make official...)?
 - b. Impact
 - i. Long and short term? On the author, the audience?
 - c. Concept
 - i. Is it possible to draw parallels with concepts seen in class? Which ones, how?
 - d. Contribution and interest
 - i. Is the document still news?