

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

STANFORD HISTORY EDUCATION GROUP
READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

Historical Reading Skills	Questions	Students should be able to...	Prompts
Sourcing (Before reading document)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the author's point of view? • Why was it written? • When was it written? • Is this source believable? Why? Why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify author's position on historical event • Identify and evaluate author's purpose in producing document • Predict what author will say BEFORE reading document • Evaluate source's believability/trustworthiness by considering genre, audience, and author's purpose. 	<p>This author probably believes...</p> <p>I think the audience is...</p> <p>Based on the sourcing information, I predict this author will...</p> <p>I do/don't trust this document because...</p>
Contextualization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What else was going on at the time this was written? • What was it like to be alive at this time? • What things were different back then? What things were the same? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use context/background information to draw more meaning from document • Infer historical context from document(s) • Recognize that document reflects one moment in changing past • Understand that words must be understood in a larger context • Identify author's claims about event • Evaluate evidence/reasoning author uses to support claims • Evaluate author's word choice; understand that language is used deliberately 	<p>I already know that _____ is happening at this time.</p> <p>From this document I would guess that people at this time were feeling...</p> <p>This document might not give me the whole picture because ...</p> <p>I think the author chose these words because they make me feel...</p> <p>The author is trying to convince me... (by using/saying...)</p>
Close Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What claims does the author make? • What evidence does the author use to support those claims? • How is this document making me feel? • What words or phrases does the author use to convince me that he/she is right? • What information does the author leave out? • What do other pieces of evidence say? • Am I finding different versions of the story? Why or why not? • What pieces of evidence are most believable? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish what is true by comparing documents to each other • Recognize disparities between two accounts 	<p>This author agrees/ disagrees with...</p> <p>This document was written earlier/later than the other, so...</p>
Corroboration			