

# Document Analysis

Adapted from the InterWeb

What to look for:

1. Historical Context
2. Intended Audience
3. Purpose
4. Point of View
5. Outside Information
6. Synthesis

How to find it:

H	<b>Historical Context</b>	What was going on when the author wrote this document? What larger events shaped the writing of this document? (Try to use vocabulary terms from the “Must Know Vocabulary” list within this explanation.) How does understanding the context help you better interpret the source?
I	<b>Intended Audience</b>	Identify the person or group the author expects to inform or influence. How does this impact the author’s message?
P	<b>Purpose</b>	Why did the author create this source?
P	<b>Point of View</b>	Who is the author? How did the author’s background (race, gender, social class, upbringing) impact their writing? What broad historical themes influenced the author in creating this document?
O	<b>Outside Information</b>	What specific historical information outside of this document can you connect to the document? Try to connect this document to something that came before, something concurrent, and something that comes after. Explain these connections.
S	<b>Synthesis</b>	Student extends the analysis by explaining one of the following: 1) A development from a different historical time period, situation or era that is connected to this document. Explain the connection. 2) A course theme that is not the focus of the document. How is this theme connected? 3) A different discipline that may use the document. How might this document be used?