

A.P.P.A.R.T.S

A Detailed Method for Analyzing Sources

*Part of the College Board Pre-AP Initiative-
Taken from AP Vertical Teams Guide for Social Studies*

Author- Who created the source, and what is his/her point of view?

Place and Time- Where and when was the source created? How does this affect meaning of the source?

Prior Knowledge- What information do you bring to this source? What do you already know that will help you understand the source?

Audience- For whom was the source created? How does this affect the source?

Reason- At the time it was created, for what purpose was the source created?

The Main Idea- What is the central point the source is trying to make? What does it say—Literally? Personally? Universally?*

Significance- Why is the source important to what you are studying or the way you want to use it?

*To the individual interpreting, most documents have three meanings; Literal, Personal, and Universal.