

Nine Tips for Paper 1

1. Before you begin to evaluate and analyze each source, fully read each one. In my experience, it is much easier to do a full read of A through D and then go back to each one and break down the paragraph.
2. Look for similar or opposite words/ phrases in each source. If you see a phrase in Source B that you feel is important, and later find a phrase that means the opposite in Source C, then you have an easy way to contrast between those two sources.
3. Make sure that you heavily mark up each source. It may seem like you're taking too much time underlining and circling, but when you're writing, the ability to glance at your sources instead of re-reading everything will gain you your time back and more.
4. When writing 1B, make sure you know MOCA DRINK. Personally, I would always look at it right before the period began. Then, the first thing I would do when I am handed my paper would be to write the full acronym down. That way, I would have a foolproof checklist in front of me when writing my paragraphs. If everything on the checklist gets into each of my paragraphs, I know I'll get a good grade.
5. If you're writing both 1A and 1B, don't disregard your information from one part when writing the other. For example, if 1A tells you to compare sources A and C on Lincoln's likelihood of being re-elected, then the information you find will still help you in 1B, even though the question will be different, as long as you make sure to stay within the bounds of the question.
6. Often when writing 1B, you will find that one or two sources may be weaker than the others. However, make sure you do not discredit those sources. Find as much relevant information as you can and do your best to fill out a MOCA DRINK paragraph. Remember that when you have less information, it is easier to get off topic, so stretch what you have.
7. In 1A, keep in mind the difference and importance of comparison and contrast. The test graders are looking for your ability to find similarities and differences between two

paragraphs that might be on the same side of things, so dig deep when looking for information.

8. In 1B, keep your sides balanced in their similarities and disagreements. This way, the paper will contain the amount of information necessary to pass, as well as read in a more fluid manner.

9. RE-READ THE QUESTIONS! Not only while writing, but also when you are finished, re-reading the question periodically will keep your response on track. Writing about something outside of the question asked is the easiest way to fail a paper.