



QUESTIONS TO ASK OF YOUR SOURCES

The questions below are taken from the Historical Thinking Chart created by Stanford History Education Group (sheg.stanford.edu). They are designed to help you think like a historian as you approach and work with sources. These questions are made to be used with a written source, but can be altered for visual sources as well.

SOURCING: Identify where the source came from and its intended purpose	CONTEXTUALIZATION: Place the source in its historical context
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who wrote this? • What is the author's perspective? • When was it written? • Why was it written? • Is it reliable? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When and where was the document created? • What was different then? What was the same? • How might the circumstances in which the document was created affect its content?
CORROBORATION: Compare the source to other sources collected during your research	CLOSE READING: Take a closer look at the source to deeply analyze its meaning and argument
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do other documents say? • Do the documents agree? If not, why? • What are other possible documents? • What documents are most reliable? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What claims does the author make? • What evidence does the author use? • What language (words, phrases, images, symbols) does the author use to persuade the document's audience? • How does the document's language indicate the author's perspective?