

How to Read History—iRead

In order to more effectively analyze a source, develop the habit of considering the following questions when reading any source material. If it helps, remember the acronym ACAPS— Author, Context, Audience, Purpose, Significance.¹

1. Author

Who created the source? What do you know about this person or his/her point of view? How might this affect the source's meaning?

2. Context

When and where was the source created? How might this affect its meaning?

3. Audience

For what audience was this source created? How might this affect its meaning?

4. Purpose

For what reason was this source created? How might this affect its meaning?

5. Significance

What can be learned or inferred from this source? What is its main idea? Why is it important?

¹ Adapted from *AVID Postsecondary Strategies for Success* (AVID Press, 2011), pp. 119-121