

# How to Read History—IREAD

**I**dentify the author's argument (also called the *thesis*):

**R**ead each paragraph:

1. What is the main idea of the paragraph?
2. How does this idea support the author's argument/thesis?

**E**xamine the author's perspective:

1. Who wrote the document? What do you know about this author? What judgments can you make about this author's credibility?
2. Why did the author write the document?

**A**ssess the influence of context:

1. When and where was this document created?
2. How might time or place influence the creation of this document?
  - a. Hint: Did the author create the document immediately after the event? Or much later? Was she a direct observer? Or was she reporting what she was told?
3. What else was happening at this time in history?  
Hint: Identify historical events and compare them to the date of the document.

**D**etermine the evidence the author uses to support his/her argument/thesis:

1. What evidence does the author give to support his argument?
2. What sources does the author use?  
Hint: Where do the facts and examples come from?
3. How does this evidence support the author's argument/thesis?

How to Read History—**IREAD**

Identify the author's argument:

Read each paragraph and identify main idea of that paragraph:

Examine the author's perspective:

Assess the influence of context:

Determine the evidence the author uses to support his/her argument or thesis: