APUSH: How to “HIPPO”

Ask yourself the following questions when addressing each component. Some documents will not have available answers to the questions, and some will benefit from making inferences.

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| **H**istorical Context:  Where and when was the source created?  What has happened around the year of the source being published that would be relevant to the source?  Is the document a reaction to some event/person/policy?  How does this source represent the period of time it is centered around? |  |
| **I**ntended Audience:  To whom is the piece directed?  Is it aimed at one person, a small group, or a large group?  How might this affect the reliability or the accuracy of the source? |  |
| **P**urpose:  Why was the source produced?  What was the author trying to accomplish?  Were there other possible motivating factors for producing the source? |  |
| **P**oint of View:  What is the main idea?  What point is the author trying to make?  How does the author’s background or position impact the message? (think race, class, gender, age, region, occupation, values, motives) |  |
| **O**utside Information/Organization:  What outside information is relevant to the document?  How does your analysis of the document fit into your argument?  What possible counter-arguments could you “get ahead of” for your analysis of this document? |  |