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? |  |