

## Social Studies - Guide to Analysing Sources

### What is the purpose of a social studies source analysis?

- To demonstrate your knowledge of the Social Studies curriculum in a sophisticated and organized manner

### How?

- Analyze three sources and demonstrate an understanding of the perspective(s) reflected in each source and their relationship to a particular topic (i.e. globalization, nationalism, liberalism)

- Establish a relationship between the three sources

## How to Analyze a Quotation

### Explain the source

1. Discuss any background or contextual information that is important to understand the quotation. For example:
  - who is the author? where is he/she from?
  - the author's political, economic, and/or social views
  - important events that may have shaped his/her perspective
2. What is the message, intent, or purpose of the author/speaker without repeating the source?
3. 2-3 sentences "describing the meaning" of the quotation, as it relates to your topic

### Identify the perspective

1. What terms, concepts, or ideas are involved?
2. Does the author accept or reject any terms, concepts or ideas?
3. Is there bias?

### Provide Support

- Use direct quotations, facts from the source to support your interpretations

## How to Analyze a Political Cartoon

### Review the entire cartoon, identify what you know

- What is your first impression?
- What terms, symbols, and concepts are involved?

### Satire: criticizing an idea or perspective

- MAKE SURE YOU IDENTIFY the idea or perspective that is being criticized
- What background information is relevant?
- Historical context

### Identify and explain techniques

- Labeling, exaggeration, analogy, symbolism, irony
- What is the overall message and how it relates to the topic (globalization, nationalism, liberalism)

### Provide support for your interpretations

## How to Analyze a Picture

### Explain the Picture

- Describe important details of the picture (1-2 sentences)
- Discuss any background or contextual information that is necessary in order to understand the picture
- 2-3 sentences "describing the meaning" of the picture, as it relates to your topic

### Identify the perspective

- What terms, concepts or ideas are involved?
- Does the picture appear to support or reject any terms, concepts or ideas?

### Provide Support

- Use specific references to aspects of the picture to support your interpretations

### How at Analyze Graphs, Tables, Statistics, Map and Charts

- Describe important details presented in the source (1-2 sentences)
- What is on the X and Y axis?
- What is being compared/contrasted?
- Discuss any background or contextual information that is necessary in order to understand the source
- 2-3 sentences "describing the meaning" of the picture, as it relates to your topic (i.e. globalization, nationalism, or liberalism)
- What conclusions can be drawn from the information?
- What possible trends can you predict from this information?
- Use specific references to aspects of the sources to support your interpretations

### Explaining relationships

#### What relationship exists among all the sources?

- To which aspect of globalization, nationalism, or liberalism are all sources connected?
- Consider terms and concepts, and try to find:
  - spectrums and ideas that can be compared or different types of a particular idea.
- Must discuss AT LEAST ONE COMMON RELATIONSHIP
- Compare and contrast: find similarities and differences between the sources
- Is there a cause/effect relationship among the sources?
- Identify common themes and/or overarching issues
- Identify an essential question each source addresses
- Do not simply restate your impression of the sources. Offer new insight!!

### Provide Support

- How do you know that the source illustrates a particular perspective?

### Things not to do in your paper!

- Do not critique or give your opinion on the source. You are only meant to analyze the source (you will get your chance to give your opinion in a position paper)
- Do not make claims/assumptions that cannot be supported

### Format

- Include a title. If you cannot think of one, use the question provided
- A brief introduction--1-2 sentences
- Paragraph 1: analysis of source 1
- Paragraph 2: analysis of source 2
- Paragraph 3: analysis of source 3
- Paragraph 4: explain the relationship