

AP World/European History – DBQs: Sourcing a Document: Writing POVs and CAPs

Sourcing a document means explaining the production of it. Why was it produced and what's the thinking behind it?

Sourcing through POVs.

- HOW does the speaker feel about the topic he/she is writing about? In order to do this you must READ BETWEEN THE LINES in order to figure HOW the speaker feels about the topic. IDENTIFY the speaker's position on the topic.
- WHY does the speaker feel this way? In order to do this you must read the source line and use something about the speaker, his gender, position, nationality, age, etc. that would explain why he/she has this point of view on the topic.
- Put the above two things in a coherent sentence. You may say something like... "This [speaker] feels..... about... which is probably due to that fact that as a he/she would naturally view as...."

Sourcing through CAPs.

- What is happening that would cause this speaker to write this?
- If the audience is not given to you, predict who he/she is reaching out to or is hoping will hear this?
- What is the speaker hoping to accomplish, impact, change, solve, etc. by saying this?
- Now put all three of these three things together in a coherent sentence that answers the following: Why is THIS PERSON saying THIS THING at THIS PARTICULAR TIME to THIS PARTICULAR PERSON/GROUP? You may say something like... "Because [event] is occurring at this time, [speaker] may be saying this in order to convince/persuade/change/ etc... [audience] to [take an action]."

For clarity in writing, if you are going to discredit a source after using it as evidence to defend one of your arguments, alert the reader by saying. "However,"

THESE POVs or CAPs will not work:

- ~~He is biased because he is the emperor.~~
- ~~He is credible because he is a scholar.~~
- ~~Because he/she was there when the event occurred, then they would be a credible source.~~

More suggestions:

POVs for images such as art, political cartoons, charts, graphs:

1. The political cartoon as a ... point of view towards... by distorting the (size or shape) of ... making it look like... to convey the message that...
2. Although statistics/data are supposed to be objective, these numbers may have been manipulated in order to show... since they come from... who would want to show...
3. The photograph reflects a... point of view by focusing on... and depicting it as ... in order to show...

CAPs for images such as photography:

4. Because the photographer has chosen to take his/her photo from an angle that puts... in the front and ... in the back, he/she is trying to show that....
5. Because the photographer is was hired by (or is working for) he/she is naturally going to want to show... in order to get the message across to the viewer that...

POVs for text-based documents:

6. The author's use of the word/phrase.... Is meant to show a/an.... point of view towards.... by emphasizing...
7. The author might say... because...
8. The author's point of view is ... because...
9. Surprisingly, the author, as a ... does not... but instead...
10. One would expect the author to... because...
11. The author's use of the word... clearly shows a ... point of view because...

CAPs for text-based documents:

12. Because the author is addressing (identify the audience if it's given to you) he/she is most likely trying to (identify the purpose) because...
13. Because the author is most likely trying to address the (identify the audience if it's not given to you) at a time when..., he/she is most likely trying to...
14. The author is saying this now (identify the occasion) to (identify the audience) because he/she may be trying to (identify the purpose).

If you're going to use bias:

15. Clearly, the author is biased towards/against...because he/she....and he shows it in the document by his use of the word/phrase....to indicate that he feels....
16. The obvious biased of the author towards/against... is most likely due to... and is evidence when he/she states that...

If you're going to use credible, accurate:

17. The author is credible because as a ... he... and therefore would know about...
18. This source is most likely an accurate account of... because it comes from... who would naturally know about... because...
19. The source is most likely accurate because who better than... who is a/an... to know about... since....

Words to use instead of SAID.

Try these more specific words to show the tone of the document.

Tone words:

Condemned	doubted	encouraged	embraced
Praised	rejected	sarcastic	challenged
Exaggerated	exalted	ridiculed	rationalized
Informed	understated	dismissive	speculated
Condoned	mocked	attacked	questioned
Idealized	stereotyped	generalized	ignored
Overlooked	glorified	criticized	implied
Showed	berated	modified	adapted
Decreed	suggested	defended	satirized
Patronized	bashed	attacked	