

# **DBQ Module:**

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# **Sourcing Documents**

# Notes

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## Rubric Commentary

*For at least three documents, explains how or why the document's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument. To earn this point, the response must explain how or why (rather than simply identifying) the document's point of view, purpose, historical situation, or audience is relevant to an argument about the prompt for each of the three documents sourced.*

**0-1 points**

**H-**

**A-**

**P-**

**P-**

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# Notes

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## Sample Sourcing Prompts to Help You Start Writing

Sourcing is one of the most difficult skills to perform on the DBQ. If you're having trouble sourcing, try using the prompts below. After you have described the contents of your document and demonstrated how it supports your thesis, start the next sentence with one of the prompts below.

### **Prompts for Historical Situation:**

- *During this period of history...*
- *The events in this document are situated in the larger context of...*
- *This document occurs in the era of [X] and thus...*

### **Prompts for Audience:**

- *The author was writing to [X] and that means...*
- *This work was meant for [X] and therefore we may interpret it [Y]...*

### **Prompts for Purpose:**

- *The author's intention was to...*
- *The reason this document was written at this time was...*

### **Prompts for Point of View:**

- *The stated purpose of the author is questionable because he/she was a [X] and that would likely cause him/her to...*
- *The author's perspective is important because...*

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## Examples of Sourcing

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### AP World

*Example of acceptable explanation of the significance of the author's point of view:*

*"Duarte Barbosa, a Portuguese official stationed at a trading post on the Malabar coast, described the great wealth and independence from political authority that Muslim traders in Calicut had enjoyed before the arrival of the Portuguese. Barbosa states that Muslims would have taken over the whole Malabar coast 'if the king of Portugal had not discovered India' and 'made himself master there,' a statement that demonstrates how the as a Portuguese government official he is biased against Muslims and is willing to trumpet Portuguese achievements.*

*Example of acceptable explanation of the significance of the author's purpose:*

*"Since the Muslim merchants of Calicut were desperately trying to convince the Hindu ruler of Calicut to act against the Portuguese, they used a much more direct language than one would expect to see in an address by subjects to their king. For example, they state that the ruler is dishonoring himself by his actions and is emboldening the Portuguese to hold him in contempt."*

*Example of acceptable explanation of the relevance of the historical situation of a document:*

*"The fact that Gujarati artists and craftsmen were showing figures wearing European attire in their decorative scenes shows how important maritime trade between Portugal and India had become for both countries."*

*Example of acceptable explanation of the significance of the audience:*

*"The letter by the ruler of Aceh, being an appeal to a fellow Muslim ruler, repeatedly flatters the Ottoman sultan, calls the Portuguese "infidels," and emphasizes the danger they pose to the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca."*

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## Examples of Sourcing

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### APUSH

*Example of an acceptable explanation of the relevance of the historical situation of a document:*

*“The cartoon is best understood in the context of the Spanish American War. The Spanish gave up its claims to Cuba and the Philippines, leaving the territory open for the US to take advantage of.”*

*Example of an acceptable explanation of the relevance of the audience:*

*“This highlights that Strong was appealing to a White audience likely to support imperialism for the maintenance of racial hierarchy.”*

*Example of an acceptable explanation of the relevance of the document’s purpose:*

*“Puck, being a satire magazine, likely published this cartoon with the purpose of showing the hypocritical nature of the Spanish-American War; it was fought to liberate Cuba but it ended with the oppression of the Philippines.”*

*Example of an acceptable explanation of the relevance of the document’s point of view:*

*“The point of view of the artist is actually critical of America’s policy of imperialism, seeing it as a sign of America’s ego in its superiority and greed.”*

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## Examples of Sourcing

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### AP Euro

*Example of acceptable explanation of the significance of the author's point of view:*

*"His point of view is also essential in understanding the Church's position on new scientific thought as Bellarmine was a high ranking Cardinal and thus was a reflection of the ideas held by the Church hierarchy."*

*Example of acceptable explanation of the significance of the author's purpose:*

*"The Catholic monk and scientist believed that Copernicus' theory was right in a book he wrote. As a Catholic himself he was aware this theory contradicts the Church doctrine. However, he was still hoping for other people to learn about the new theory and this is his purpose of writing this book. His audience was other intellectuals like him, he tried to express concerns he had regarding the church and wanted to get some feedback from his peers."*

*Example of acceptable explanation of the relevance of the historical situation of a document:*

*"Galileo asked his daughter to keep the letters from the Pope private. It speaks volumes that the Pope of the Catholic Church had to be secretive about his support for a scientist."*

*Example of acceptable explanation of the significance of the audience:*

*"This critique from a Jesuit College is aimed at those who may want to follow Descartes thoughts and believe it; moreover, by claiming those who may want to follow Descartes reasoning are heretics, it further shows their intent to keep people from going away from traditional Catholic thinking like Protestants did."*