H.I.P.P.O.ing Documents

A way to extend the analysis of primary and secondary source documents

1. **Historical Context**

   Analysis of ‘Historical Context’ involves connecting a document to specific historical events, to specific circumstances of time and place, and/or to broader regional, national, or global processes. Identifying the ‘Historical Context’ places the document within broader trends which are contemporary to the source. It might also connect the document across time to earlier and later eras, or across space to events happening in different places.

2. **Intended Audience**

   Authors aim what they write to particular groups of people. Observing the ‘intended audience’ of a source involves identifying a person or group the author expects to inform or influence in creating the source.
3. **Purpose (Author’s)**

Author’s Purpose can be thought of as the goal sought by the author. It involves identifying the author’s endgame, what they hope to accomplish, and why they are writing the document.

4. **Point of View (POV)**

What is the main idea?
What point is the author trying to make?
How does the author’s background or position impact the message?
(Race, class, gender, age, region, occupation, values, motives)

5. **Outside Information**

What Outside info does it support?

---

**HIPPOing Phrases in your Notebook / Essay**

- **Historical context:**
  - “the historical context of this document is__________________.”

- **Intended Audience:**
  - “the author’s intended audience was ________________” and “is shown by________________.”

- **Purpose:**
  - “the author’s purpose in writing was to ________________” and “is shown by________________.”

- **Point of View:**
  - “the author’s point of view in this document was ________________” and “is shown by________________.”

- **Outside Information:**
  - What other historical examples/ideas/events/issues from the document’s time period help explain its creation or the ideas that motivated it? Stay within the time period of the document.
# Document Analysis Sheet

Name of Document________________________________________
Date Written (if known)____________________________________
Author (if known)_________________________________________

## Historical Context
Where and when was the source created?
What was going on at the time?
What has just happened?
Is the document a reaction to some event?
How does this source represent the period?

## Intended Audience
To whom is the piece directed?
One person, a small group, a large group?
A certain person or certain people?
How might this affect the reliability or accuracy of the source?

## Purpose
Why was the source produced?
What was the author trying to accomplish?
Did he/she have ulterior motives?

## Point-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?
*(Race, class, gender, age, region, occupation, values, motives)*

## Organization
How does your analysis of the document fit into your argument?
Does it provide a counter-argument?
What outside info does it support?
“The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect, over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked; his wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire;”

- Johnathan Edwards, Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God, 1741

Analysis

Historical Context: Great Awakening 1730’s 1740’s.

Intended Audience: Lazy Colonial church members.

Purpose (Author’s): This sermon was created to get church members to go back to their pious way of life.

Point of View: Edward’s POV in this excerpt was that people are lost without the grace of God and is shown by comparing them to spiders about to be thrown into hell.