

**SOAPS: A method of analyzing historical documents**  
**(Student copy)**

To establish the historical context of a document it is necessary to ask certain questions. Use the following questions to help you examine historical documents.

<b>(S) SPEAKER</b>	What is the document describing or relating?  What are the key points the document is trying to make?
<b>(O) OCCASION</b>	When and where was the document written?  How might this affect the meaning of the source?
<b>(A) AUDIENCE</b>	For whom was the document created?  Is the document written to appeal to a certain audience?
<b>(P) PURPOSE</b>	What was the author of the document trying to accomplish by creating it?
<b>(S) SUBJECT</b>	Who is the author of the document?  What do you know about the author?  What is the author's point of view?

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