

WHAT IS HISTORY?

- **History is an account of the past.**
- **Accounts differ depending on one's perspective.**
- **We rely on evidence to construct accounts of the past.**
- **We must question the reliability of each piece of evidence.**
- **Any single piece of evidence is insufficient to build a plausible account.**



SOURCING

**Before reading the document
ask yourself:**

- **Who wrote this?**
- **What is the author's perspective?**
- **Why was it written?**
- **When was it written?**
- **Where was it written?**
- **Is it reliable? Why? Why not?**

CORROBORATION

- **What do other documents say?**
- **Do the documents agree?
If not, why?**
- **What are other possible documents?**
- **What documents are most reliable?**

CONTEXTUALIZATION

- **When and where was the document created?**
- **What was different then?
What was the same?**
- **How might the circumstances in which the document was created affect its content?**

CLOSE READING

- **What claims does the author make?**
- **What evidence does the author use?**
- **What language (words, phrases, images, symbols) does the author use to persuade the document's audience?**
- **How does the document's language indicate the author's perspective?**

