

# Source Analysis 101

**Skills Workshop**

# What is a Source Analysis?

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“A way to demonstrate your knowledge of a topic in a sophisticated and organized manner”

## HOW?

- Analyze three (3) sources individually and demonstrate an understanding of the ***perspective(s)*** reflected in each source and their ***relationship*** to a particular topic (ex. Globalization)
- Then analyze and establish a relationship between the three sources.

# What is a 'source'?

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Quotation

Cartoon

Article

Video clip

Picture/Image

Graphs

Statistics

Maps

Charts

**How to Analyze a....**

# How to analyze a quotation

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## **Explain the source:**

1. Discuss any background or contextual information that is important to understand the quotation. For example:
  - Who is the author?
  - Where is he/she from?
  - The author's political, economic and/or social views
  - Important events that may have shaped his/her perspective
2. What is the message, intent, or purpose of the author/speaker without repeating the source?
3. Give 2-3 sentences "describing the meaning" of the quotation, as it relates to your topic

## **Identify the perspective:**

1. What terms, concepts or ideas are involved?
2. Does the author accept or reject any terms, concepts or ideas?
3. Is there bias?

## **Provide Support for all of the claims you make:**

1. Use direct quotations, facts from the source to support your interpretations.

# How to analyze a Political Cartoon

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## 1. Review the entire cartoon, identify what you know (EXPLICIT DETAILS)

- What is your first impressions?
- What terms, symbols, content are involved?

## 2. Satire: criticizing an idea or perspective (IMPLICIT DETAILS)

- Make sure you identify the idea or perspective being criticized.
- What background information is relevant to understand this?
- Historical context

## 3. Identify and explain techniques:

- Labelling, exaggeration, analogy, symbolism, irony
- What is the overall message and how does it relate to your topic

## 4. Provide SUPPORT from the source for your interpretations

# How to analyze a picture

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## **1. Explain the picture (EXPLICIT DETAILS)**

- Describe important details of the picture (1-2 sentences)
- Discuss any background or contextual information relevant to the source
- 2-3 sentences to describe the meaning of the picture, as it relates to your topic

## **2. Identify the perspective (IMPLICIT DETAILS)**

- What terms/concepts/ideas are involved?
- Does the picture appear to support or reject any terms, concepts or ideas?

## **3. Provide support from the source to back up your interpretations**

# How to analyze Graphs/Stats/Maps/Charts

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- 1. Describe important details presented in the source (EXPLICIT DETAILS) (1-2 sentences)**
    - Chart: What is on the X and Y axis?
    - What is being compared/contrasted?
  - 2. Discuss any background or contextual information necessary to understand the source**
  - 3. 2-3 sentences describing the meaning of the source as it relates to your topic (IMPLICIT DETAILS)**
  - 4. What conclusions can be drawn from the information?**
  - 5. What possible trends can you predict from this information?**
  - 6. Provide support from the source for your interpretations**

# Examining Relationships

# How do I examine the relationship of my sources?

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## **1. What relationship exists among ALL the sources?**

- To which aspect of your topic are all the sources connected?
- Must discuss at least ONE COMMON RELATIONSHIP
- Compare/contrast the sources for differences
- Is there a cause & effect relationship among all the sources?
- Identify common themes and/or overarching issues
- Identify possible essential questions all the sources identify
- Offer NEW INSIGHT into the sources...don't just simply restate your interpretation of them individually.

## **2. Provide support for your findings from the sources (pointing out or highlighting certain aspects of the sources)**

# A source analysis is NOT...

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Opinion based. (that's what position papers are for)

Full of claims or assumptions you can not back up from the sources provided

Someone else's interpretation of the sources (that's plagiarism)

# Format:

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- ❑ Include a title.
  - ❑ If you cannot think of one, use the question provided
- ❑ A brief introduction of topic
  - ❑ 1-2 sentences (what is the topic? What background information is helpful to understand the upcoming sources?)
- ❑ Paragraph 1: analysis of source 1
- ❑ Paragraph 2: analysis of source 2
- ❑ Paragraph 3: analysis of source 3
- ❑ Paragraph 4: explain the relationships

# Source Paragraphs could look something like this...

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**Sentence 1:** Source A is a (political cartoon/chart/ map/excerpt) that is saying/depicting/showing...

**Sentence 2:** The ideological perspective presented in the source is....(this is usually an “ism”).

**Sentence 3:** This (“ism”) is (depicted/presented/discussed) in the source, because of the following...(Quote some evidence/examples from the source for support).

**Sentence 4:** The links between the principles of the (cartoon/article/graph/picture) and the (“ism”) is....(discuss how the ideological perspective of the source links to the specific principles of your ism by explaining how the source shows support or criticizes/rejects these principles. Quote some evidence from the source for support)

**(Repeat this format for Source B and Source C paragraphs)**

# Relationship Paragraph could look something like...

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First, state the principle that links or relates to the three sources:

**The relationship between Sources A, B, and C is the principle of .....**

Next, discuss how the linking principle is present in each source:

**In Source A, the principle of** (ideological principle or 'ism' goes here) **is shown** by.....

**In Source B, it is shown by.....**

**Lastly, in Source C,.....**

\*\*To ensure that deep understanding of the sources is apparent, you can find ANOTHER linking principle present in the sources. Maybe it is only 2 of 3 sources you can link with another similar concept or idea, but use the same format for describe this.

# Practice (groups)

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Lets try it out!

## SOURCE A:

We have benefited greatly from the globalization of the economy in the last 30 years.

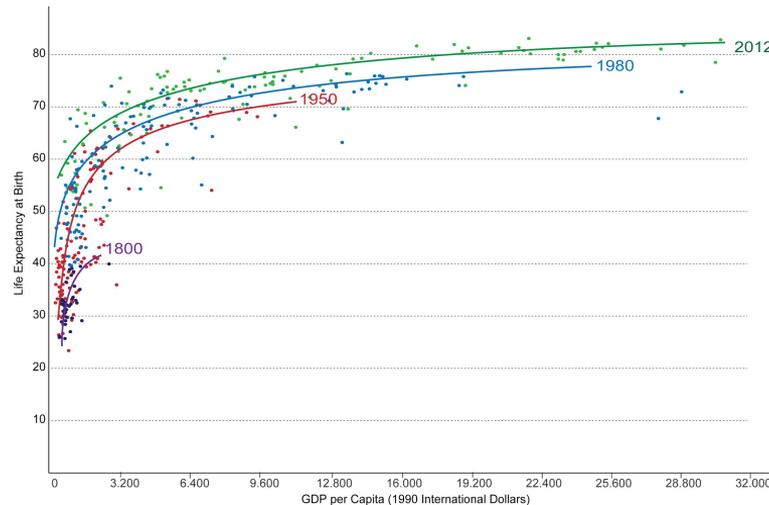
- Phil Gramm

## SOURCE C:

Our World in Data

Life Expectancy vs. GDP per Capita from 1800 to 2012 – by Max Roser

GDP per capita is measured in International Dollars. This is a currency that would buy a comparable amount of goods and services a U.S. dollar would buy in the United States in 1990. Therefore incomes are comparable across countries and across time.



Data sources: Data on life expectancy are from Gapminder.org; data on GDP per capita are from the 'New Maddison Project Database'. The interactive data visualisation is available at OurWorldInData.org. There you find the raw data and more visualisations on this topic.

Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser.

## SOURCE B:



search ID: knim156

# Try it on your own!

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Handout:

Rubric:

Work time: Approx 2 classes (more or less as per student needs)