Identify the Author’s argument in response to the historical question.
- Which side is the author on?
- How would the author respond to the historical question?

Read each paragraph and ask about the author’s main idea.
- What is the author describing in this paragraph?
- What is the main idea of this paragraph?
- Does this main idea relate to the historical question? How?

Examine the author’s ★ reliability★.
- Who wrote this document and what judgments can we make about him/her?
- Why did s/he write this document? Clues: ★ Type of document ★ audience and ★ occasion for writing ★

Judge: Write 1 reason to doubt and 1 reason to trust the author.

Assess the influence of context. ⇐
- How might ⇒ place ⇐ have influenced the writing of this document? Clue: Compare document location to location of events.
- What else was going on ⇒ at this time ⇐ in history? Clue: Identify ⇒ historical events ⇐ and compare to when documents were written.

Judge: Given what else was going on this time/place, write why the author’s argument does/doesn’t make sense.

Determine the quality of the author’s facts and examples.
- What facts or examples does the author give to support his/her argument?
- How do facts or examples support the author’s argument?
- Where do the facts or examples come from?
- Which facts or examples are most persuasive?

Judge: Write why author’s facts/examples are/are not convincing.