Document Analysis Tool: SIPP

S.I.P.P. is a helpful tool for analyzing documents (MC questions, DBQ essay, and SAQs). The AP requires students to SOURCE documents in their DBQ essays. Here are the four ways you can source documents to receive credit from the College Board. When sourcing, it must directing relate back to the prompt and extend/connect/help build your historical argument.

S	Situation (historical context)	• When was the document created? What was going when the document was created? • What big events might have motivated the author to create the document? • How have these events influenced what is being stated in the document? • How is this document SITUATED in the historical setting in which it was created? **** This is setting the CONTEXT for a specific document i.e. the Treaty of Versailles-end of WWI**
I	Intended Audience	• Who was the author's original/intended audience? Who was meant to see, hear, read, experience the author's message? • How might that affect what was being stated and how it was being stated? • Did the intended audience change or shift as this message was communicated? Why?
P	Purpose (intended)	• Why did the author create the document? • What is the main idea/message/occasion of the document? • Did this message shift over time? Why?
P	Perspective	• What is the author's background (gender, status, occupation, political views, religion...) and how might have this influenced what is being communicated and how it is being communicated? • From what perspective is the author communicating their message? What is their point of view of the topic being discussed? • What is the author's ARGUMENT in relation to what you are arguing in your essay?