

# AP COLLEGE BOARD: BECOMING ACTIVE READERS OF HISTORICAL TEXTS

The table below provides examples of types of strategies students can use to **become active readers of historical texts.**

<b>Before Reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Focus on essential question that the text helps answer</li> <li>➤ Preview the text to determine the topic and the text’s structure and purpose (e.g. argument, narrative, explanation)</li> <li>➤ Use the title and preview of the text to activate prior knowledge</li> <li>➤ Develop questions about the text and/or its topic that might be answered when reading</li> </ul>
<b>During Reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Monitor reading to ensure comprehension</li> <li>➤ Answer the questions developed before reading</li> <li>➤ Annotate the text for main ideas, answers to questions, interesting or surprising aspects of the text, and parts of it that are difficult to understand</li> <li>➤ Periodically stop and reflect on what’s being read and how it fits with prior knowledge and other parts of the text</li> </ul>
<b>After Reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Respond to the questions developed before and after reading</li> <li>➤ Reflect on the text, what it means, and whether it supports or refutes prior ideas and understandings</li> <li>➤ Draw conclusions and devise generalizations</li> <li>➤ Make connections to other texts, key concepts, and overarching ideas</li> <li>➤ Discuss the text with peers to ensure understanding and have remaining questions answered.</li> </ul>

\*\*While you read documents and text, you should be annotation with purpose. Generate questions you have, circle key terms, underline line of reasoning, historically evidence, etc.

View documents and text as voices and narratives. Imagine them at a dinner party-who would be saying what, when, why? Where would everyone be sitting? What is their actual intended purpose of being an active participant in the conversation? Who would care about what is being discussed at this party? Who is NOT at the party? What is the topic and purpose of this or these conversations being conducted? Wat is the actual occasion for this dinner party? Is there a constant tone or changing tone at the party? Would this interpretation of this conversation if witnessed y something else?