Introduction

The ability to analyze primary and secondary sources is a key component of the AP World History course.

It is necessary for responding appropriately to short-answer questions and multiple-choice questions, and also accounts for three of the seven points earned on the document-based question (DBQ).

One of the key aspects of the DBQ is the recognition that the document is not neutral information. Students MUST evaluate the reliability and credibility of the resources.
Key Mistakes in Document Analysis

1) Not going BEYOND what is already given in the document’s attribute when explaining who the speaker is, the historical occasion, etc.
   - Students do not earn any credit for simply repeating what is already provided.

2) Quoting the documents directly.
   - The key skill here is in analysis, not in re-writing the document. In order to reinforce this skill, assignments/assessments that include quotes of a document will not earn any credit in grading.
POV (Point of View)

A person’s POV is made up of their personal frame of reference and the historical context in which they live.

**Frame of Reference:** This is influenced by a person’s gender, occupation, class, education, religion, personal interests and other aspects of their beings.

**Examples:** supporting the Dodgers baseball team, being a Wisconsin Badger alumni, being a lawyer, being an only child, being male or female, growing up wealthy/poor, etc.
POV (Point of View)

A person’s POV is made up of their personal frame of reference and the historical context in which they live.

**Historical Context:** This is made up of the society’s influences on a person. It can be societal values, economic pressures, political conditions or other things which influence the society.

*Examples:* gas prices, war, theocratic government, revolution, etc.
The SOAP Method of Document Analysis

S = Speaker  Who is the speaker? CORNPEG - class, occupation, religion, nationality, political position, ethnic identity, gender. Are they an insider or an outsider?

O = Occasion Is there a current situation of importance (revolution, famine, prison, etc.)

A = Audience To whom is the piece addressed? It may be a large or small group or one person.

P = Purpose What is the reason for the text, cartoon, graph, etc.? Why was it created?
The SOAP Method of Document Analysis

By applying the SOAP formula to each document, you will quickly learn to consider the POV of the author and assess the document for its reliability and credibility as a source.

Not every document will encompass every category.

NOTE: The act of seeing something first-hand, by itself, does not make one credible to write/speak about that event.

A speaker’s POV influences their writing/speaking about an event.
POV Statements: Summary + SOAP

**Sentence 1:** Summarize the document in a sentence that contains one or two facts and specifically refers to the author by name.

**Sentence 2:** S + O

It is important to EXPAND on the information given in the attribution. If all you do is reiterate the attribution given, you have not gone far enough.

Occasion provides the context of where it is and what is going on at that time.

**Sentence 3:** A + P
Example

Confucius, a philosopher and teacher in China, from *The Analects of Confucius*, a lesson to his students, fifth century BCE.

The object of the superior man is truth, not food... The superior man is anxious lest he should not get truth; he is not anxious lest poverty should come upon him ... The mind of the superior man is conversant with virtue; the mind of the base man is conversant with gain. The superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions. The superior man has his hatreds. He hates those who proclaim the evil of others. He hates the man who, being in a low station, slanders his superiors.
Example

Confucius, a philosopher and teacher in China, from *The Analects of Confucius*, a lesson to his students, fifth century BCE.

The object of the superior man is truth, not food... The superior man is anxious lest he should not get truth; he is not anxious lest poverty should come upon him... The mind of the superior man is conversant with virtue; the mind of the base man is conversant with gain. The superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions. The superior man has his hatreds. He hates those who proclaim the evil of others. He hates the man who, being in a low station, slanders his superiors.

SAMPLE POV Statement

Confucius explains that a superior man in society is modest, honest, hates evil, and thinks about society more than himself. Confucius is a leading philosopher and teacher at a time of great instability in China known as the Warring States period. He is addressing his words to the ruler of his kingdom, and to his followers in particular, to try and convince them that morality must be respected in order to create stability in an attempt to calm chaotic China.
POVs in a DBQ: Subjectivity and Credibility

A key component to writing a DBQ is to include POVs about the writer/creator of the document. They demonstrate to the reader that you understand that the documents are not statements of fact, but opinions of events made by people at a particular time and place and often for a specific reason.

Two main types of POV:

1) Based on the author’s background (CORNPEG)
2) Based on authenticity, reliability, and accuracy of the source
   ○ Examine the author and the type of source to determine WHY it is accurate and reliable. Is the document an official report? Propaganda? Private letter, etc.? Is the author an inside or outside observer?
Based on author’s background

Baldassare Castiglione; Italian author, courtier, and diplomat, who served in the courts of Mantua and Urbino and later served the pope. His book, *The Courtier*, describes the conduct of the perfect courtier (aristocrat who serves at the court of a noble).

Employ in everything a certain casualness which conceals art and creates the impression that what is done and said is accomplished without effort and without its being thought about. It is from this, in my opinion that grace largely derives.
Based on author’s background

Baldassare Castiglione; Italian author, courtier, and diplomat, who served in the courts of Mantua and Urbino and later served the pope. His book, *The Courtier*, describes the conduct of the perfect courtier (aristocrat who serves at the court of a noble).

Employ in everything a certain casualness which conceals art and creates the impression that what is done and said is accomplished without effort and without its being thought about. It is from this, in my opinion that grace largely derives.

Summary and POV Example

Castiglione indicates that people should act calmly, as if everything just comes naturally to them. Castiglione is a successful diplomat and a courtier who had worked for several important nobles in the courts of various Italian city-states during the Renaissance. He writes his book for other young men like himself who aim to work for the rich and powerful leaders of the day in order that they learn the best way to behave in every situation.

For women who live a long life, old age is especially hard to bear, because most women must rely on others for their existence. Before a woman's marriage, a good father is even more important than a good grandfather; a good brother is even more important than a good father. ... After her marriage, a good husband is even more important than a good father-in-law; a good son is even more important than a good husband.

For women who live a long life, old age is especially hard to bear, because most women must rely on others for their existence. Before a woman's marriage, a good father is even more important than a good grandfather; a good brother is even more important than a good father. ... After her marriage, a good husband is even more important than a good father-in-law; a good son is even more important than a good husband.

Summary and POV Example

Yuan Ts'ai claims that men are more important than women, and a woman will always have a man in their life to look up to. Yuan Ts'ai was a member of the scholarly bureaucracy, and influenced by his Neo–Confucianist training which taught that women should be relegated to subservient positions relative to men; he writes at a time when the status of women declined. He wrote this work as a guide for others to live by, with the purpose of reinforcing the Confucian values of respect and filial piety that he believed to be so important to his society.
Based on authenticity, reliability, and accuracy

Vespasiano da Bisticci of Florence, who wrote over 300 biographies, helped form the papal library and was a leading humanist philosopher of the age. The following is from his biography on Cosimo Medici, leader of the great Florentine family, ca. 1450.

Cosimo became increasingly aware of the fact that if he wanted God to have mercy on him and conserve him in the possession of his temporal goods, he had to turn to pious ways ... his conscience [bothered] him about some money which he had come by not quite cleanly. Wanting to lift this weight from his shoulders, he went to talk to Pope Eugenius ... to satisfy himself and to unburden his conscience he ... spent in all more than forty thousand florins ... on the building.
Based on authenticity, reliability, and accuracy

Vespasiano da Bisticci of Florence, wrote over 300 biographies, helped form the papal library and was a leading humanist philosopher of the age. The following is from his biography on Cosimo Medici, leader of the great Florentine family, ca. 1450.

Cosimo became increasingly aware of the fact that if he wanted God to have mercy on him and conserve him in the possession of his temporal goods, he had to turn to pious ways ... his conscience [bothered] him about some money which he had come by not quite cleanly. Wanting to lift this weight from his shoulders, he went to talk to Pope Eugenius ... to satisfy himself and to unburden his conscience he ... spent in all more than forty thousand florins ... on the building.

Summary and POV Example

Da Bisticci writes that Cosimo Medici donated money to the Church because he was feeling guilty about how he had made that money. Da Bisticci was a member of the court of Cosimo de Medici in Florence and was a noted biographer, living in a city state dominated by the Medici family during the Renaissance. He wrote this account, which he knew would be read by Cosimo and other city dignitaries, in order to produce a favorable view of Cosimo, so he uses language that would not anger the wealthy leader as his livelihood depended on staying in the favor of important men.
Based on authenticity, reliability, and accuracy

Zhou Dagnan, Chinese envoy and high ranking member of a delegation sent to Cambodia by Kublai Khan. Written in a 1297 report to the emperor, after a year-long stay.

In Cambodia, women attend to trade. Even a Chinese who arrives there and takes a woman will profit greatly from her trading abilities. They do not have permanent stores, but simply spread a piece of mat on the ground. Everyone has her own spot.
Zhou Dagnan, Chinese envoy and high ranking member of a delegation sent to Cambodia by Kublai Khan. Written in a 1297 report to the emperor, after a year-long stay.

In Cambodia, women attend to trade. Even a Chinese who arrives there and takes a woman will profit greatly from her trading abilities. They do not have permanent stores, but simply spread a piece of mat on the ground. Everyone has her own spot.

Summary and POV Example

Zhou Daguan mentions that women in Cambodia are heavily involved in trading. Zhou Daguan, is an important diplomat chosen by the Mongol leader of the Yuan dynasty and sent on a mission to neighboring Cambodia at a time when the Mongol dynasty were eager to use the ideas and expertise of others to advance their power. His experience, as an outsider from male-dominated China, would have made the role of women in Cambodia stand out in his mind and seem strange to him. He is reporting back to the Chinese court and has little reason to report falsely to his superiors in China.
Based on authenticity, reliability, and accuracy
Based on authenticity, reliability, and accuracy

The chart provides evidence of the increase in the rice and wheat crop yields in the second half of the 20th century. The Library of Congress used information collected by a federal research group, and there is no reason to suspect that the data is not accurate. The Green Revolution took place at a time when the population of India seemed destined to outpace the supply of food, causing the Indian government to take action. The graph was made for economists to understand the degree of success that the new policies produced at a time when some were questioning the efficacy of the program.
Sima Qian, historian of the Han 2nd century B.C.E., from his book *The Annals of Qin* - an account of the first emperor of the earlier Qin Dynasty.

Summary & POV Statement:

Sima Qian explains how the previous Qin emperor used laws to unify China. Sima Qian is a court-appointed historian of a powerful early Chinese dynasty, who writes in a period when China is reestablishing cohesion after a period of chaos. He directs his words at the bureaucrats and men in power to convince them of the importance of unity and regulations.
Plato, Greek philosopher, student of Socrates, from his book *Republic*, ca. 360 B.C.E.

S = philosopher, citizen of Athens, educated, elite
O = Athens, a city state during a period of rivalry
A = educated people, students
P = wants a strong Athens and is looking for an answer

Summary & POV Statement:

Plato states that philosophers would make the best leaders. He is an educated philosopher in the city-state of Athens during the Classical Age, when there was much questioning concerning government. He directs his words at his students and other educated thinkers because he wants his own city-state to become dominant and successful in the Greek region.
Tyrtaeus, Spartan Greek poet who wrote at a time of war and slave rebellion during the seventh century B.C.E.

S = Spartan poet, Sparta is not very art friendly
O = war and rebellion
A = elites of Sparta, perhaps other Greek city-state leaders
P = explain why the kings need to have ultimate power

Summary & POV Statement:

In document 3, Tyrtaeus explains how Apollo gave the power to rule to the kings, even the power to overrule to council. Tyrrateus writes in a city not known for its tolerance of artists in a time of political strife. He writes to explain why Sparta has, and indeed needs to have, a strong king, in contrast to the democracy in nearby Athens.
Detail of the Alexander Sarcophagus, Lebanon, ca. 350 BCE

S = sculptors, most likely commissioned by high-ranking members of the Seleucid government

O = Hellenistic Age, Alexander had spread Greek culture across West Asia

A = the public, those who visited Alexander's mausoleum

P = to glorify Alexander and his army

Summary & POV Statement:

Alexander’s Sarcophagus in document 4 features a battle scene where Alexander and his soldiers are depicted as triumphing over their enemy. The sculpture was created by sculptors, most likely commissioned by high-ranking members of Seleucid government after Alexander’s death during the Hellenistic Age, after Alexander had spread Greek culture across West Asia. It was designed to glorify the actions of Alexander and his conquering forces to all who visited his mausoleum.
Xun Kuang (Xun Zi), Chinese Confucian philosopher during the Warring States Period, 250 B.C.E.

**S** = philosopher, legalist

**O** = Warring States Period, a time of chaos

**A** = Chinese people, elite

**P** = to explain problems with society and give one way to bring order, strict teachers

**Summary & POV Statement:**

In document 5, Xun Kuang says that people are naturally bad and need strict rules in order to function in society. Xun Kuang was a Confucian philosopher, believing in the importance of respect and order in society, at a time when China was in chaos after the fall of the Zhou dynasty. He addresses philosophical and political leaders in an attempt to convince them to treat the populace harshly in order to stabilize society.