

APPARTS

One means of coming to grips with the real meaning of a primary source is to apply the APPARTS method. You should learn to do this every time you come into contact with a new document. Remember, just reading the words, does not mean that you understand the significance of the document itself. A few moments spent applying this tool will help you obtain a better understanding of the text in question.

* **A**uthor - Who created the source? What is their point of view?

* **P**lace and **T**ime - Where and when was the source produced?

* **P**rior **K**nowledge - What do you already know that would further your understanding of this sources?

* **A**udience - For whom was the source created? Does this affect the reliability of the source?

* **R**eason - Why was this source produced at the time it was produced?

* **T**he **M**ain **I**dea - What is the source trying to convey?

* **S**ignificance - Why is this source important?