Historical Source Analysis

The History of America

Examples

1. What is Historical Source?

Historical source is a concrete evidence of the past that provides information about a historical event, person, object or work of art under investigation. This evidence can be either an original material, object or artifact of first hand-evidence to the investigated material (i.e primary source) or an analysis, a description, a review, a synthesis or a summary of history (i.e. secondary source).

2. What is Historical Source Analysis (HAS)?

HSA is descriptive, analytical and evaluative study of a historical source.

3.What is it for?

Generally speaking, HSA is for looking up clues and evidence to discover the past, to unfold the truths and to support historical facts and forming conclusions. However, for the purpose of our study, HSA serves to:

- ✓ consolidate knowledge and historical information already learned in the lectures.
- ✓ reinforce & help memorization.
- ✓ better understand historical events & facts.
- ✓ develop critical thinking and reading comprehension.
- ✓ prepare you for writing a historical essays and dissertations in civilization.

4.How is it done?

In practice, HSA is process of decoding information and facts through analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating and summarizing a given historical source. Hence, in order to demonstrate HSA you need (1) to carefully read the source to find both the explicit and implicit information (2) to conduct <u>background research</u> about the author of the source. Primary Sources: Manuscripts, Letters, Journals, Diaries, Autobiographies, Fossils, Cannonball, Cartoons, Official records....etc

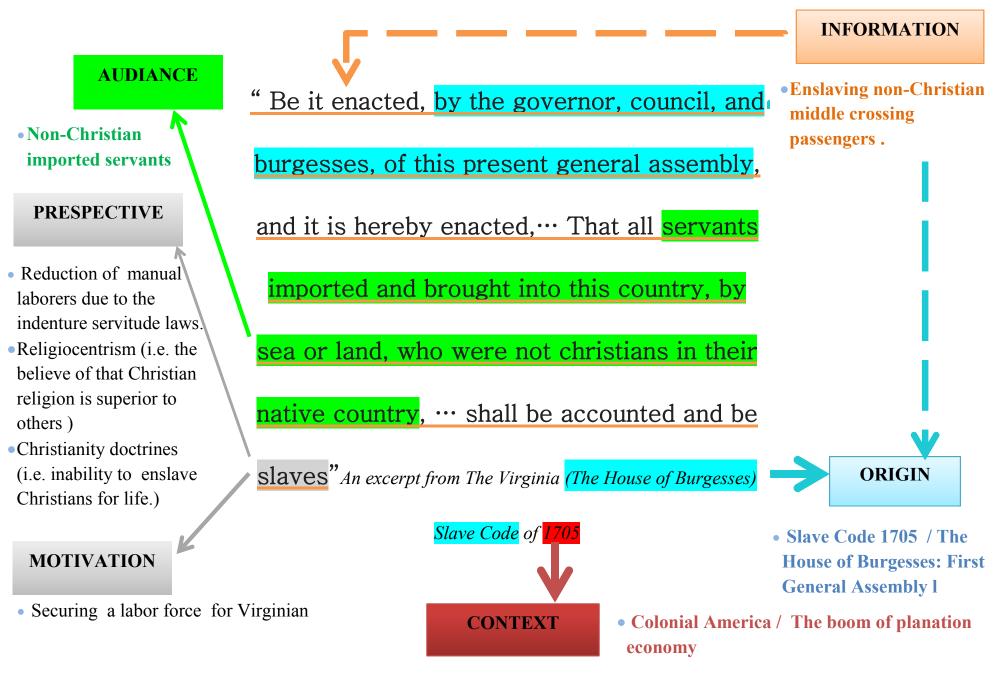
Secondary Sources: Magazines, Reincarnations, Synopses, Articles, Documentaries, illustrations,etc

5.The Six Skills of Primary Historical Source Analysis

	What is the <u>explicit meaning</u> of the source?
Information	(Comprehension)
	What is the <u>implicit meaning</u> of the source?
	(<u>Interpretation</u>)
	What <u>kind and type of source</u> is it?
Origin	Who created the source?
Denon e etime	From what point of view was the source
<u>Perspective</u>	From what <u>point of view</u> was the source
	created?
	When was the source created?
<u>Context</u>	What historical events happened at this
	time that are important to the creation of this
	source?
<u>Audience</u>	Who was the <u>intended audience</u> of the source?
Motive	For what <u>purpose</u> was this source made?

6. An illustration to the process of HSA: the following illustrative example is an excerpt from primary source of An Act concerning (Servants & Slaves) / Library of Virginia

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The History of AmericaHistorical Source AnalysisTask01:Read carefully the following source then choose	6 Skills of HSA	Analysis
the correct analysis in the propesed (HSA).	Information	Extending citizenship and natural rights as birthright
Source: "ALL PERSONS BORN OR NATURALIZED IN THE		both on federal and state governments and outlawing discrimination conditionally.
UNITED STATES, AND SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION		\Box Abridging citizenship and natural rights to U.S. to
THEREOF, ARE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES [] NO		natural-born African Americans and former slaves.
STATE SHALL MAKE OR ENFORCE ANY LAW WHICH SHALL		□ Extending citizenship and natural rights as birthrigh
ABRIDGE THE PRIVILEGES OR IMMUNITIES OF CITIZENS OF		both on federal and state governments and outlawing
THE UNITED STATES; NOR SHALL ANY STATE DEPRIVE		discrimination unconditionally. Nature of the source:
ANY PERSON OF LIFE, LIBERTY, OR PROPERTY, WITHOUT		\Box An Act
DUE PROCESS OF LAW." An excerpt of the 14th Amendment to the		□ A Constitution
		□ An Amendment.
U.S. Constitution: Congress June 8, 1866.		
	Origin	$\Box U.S.$ Constitution, Congress, June 8, 1866.
		$\Box U.S.$ Constitution, Supreme court, January 31, 1866
	Perspective	\Box Forced slavery & servitude
		\Box Racial discrimination & inequity against former sla
	Context	🗆 Antebellum America
		\Box Progressive Era
	Audience	□African Americans
		□States' governments.
		\Box Former slaves.

Motivation

□*Granting citizenship for former slaves*

Granting Citizenship for *Natural born US citizen*

□ granting voting rights to vote for African Americans.



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<u>*Task02:*</u> Read carefully the following source & complete the missing information in (HSA) table

<u>Source</u> "NEITHER SLAVERY NOR INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE, EXCEPT AS A PUNISHMENT FOR CRIME WHEREOF THE PARTY SHALL HAVE BEEN DULY CONVICTED, SHALL EXIST WITHIN THE UNITED STATES, OR ANY PLACE SUBJECT TO THEIR JURISDICTION." An excerpt from the 13th amendment *Congress January 31, 1865*.

<u>HSA</u>

(HSA) Skills	Analysis
Information	Prohibitingslavery & servitude save for within the United states jurisdiction. Type of the source :
Origin	······
Perspective	······
Context	
Audience	
Motivation	Outlawing

<u>*Task03:*</u> Read carefully the following source then analyse it using (HSA) technique

Source: Passed by Congress February 26, 1869, and ratified February 3, 1870, the 15th

15th Amendment

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.