**Document Based Question (DBQ) Analysis**

SIPPY!

You will be asked to analyze a variety of documents, both long and short. SIPPY is an acronym designed to help gain a better understanding of the document while reinforcing specific writing skills needed for writing DBQ’s. Some documents (especially short docs or excerpts of larger documents) may *not* include *all* the SIPPY elements.

**S -** **Historical Situation:** What’s the date? What was going on at the time of the document? Why historical processes might have led to the creation of the document? Are there other big events that could have motivated the writer/creator/author at the time to inspire a change? What role does this document play in the bigger historical events before/during/after its creation?

**I -** **Intended Audience:** Who did the speaker (author/creator) intend to reach? Who was meant to read, see, or hear the document?

**P - Purpose:** Why did the speaker create this document? What is he/she trying to change?

**P - Point of View\*:** What is the speaker’s position in society, and how does this impact his/her view? Does he/she convey emotion? Does he/she have a defined political, religious, or economic view that a reader should consider? Consider the context, audience, and purpose when writing POV.

**Y – Why does the sourcing matter:** It is not enough to analyze the document using SIPP. In order to get the rubric point you must explain why SIPP is important to your argument. *“The purpose of Doc #1 is …”* will never get you a point. *“The purpose of Doc #1 is … which demonstrates …”* will - assuming the statement is historically defensible.

**\*Consider using SOS to help determine the authors POV:**

**S** **- Subject:** What is the main topic of the document? What connection does the author have to the subject? Does this impact the author’s understanding of the events depicted in the document?

**O** **- Occasion:** What is the setting or general environment in which the document was created? What is happening at the time of the documents creation that might have led to its creation?

**S – Speaker:** Is someone identified as the speaker? What assumptions can you make about the speaker? (e.g., age, gender, class, emotional state,etc.) The author and the speaker are not necessarily the same. The author may tell the story from many different points of view. So who is telling the story? How do you know this? How does the writer present his/her narration? Assess the character of the speaker. *These are crucial considerations*. Are the author and speaker a different gender? Do not be confused by the gender of the author and assume the speaker must be the same. Let the facts lead you to the speaker. What does the speaker believe? Do **not** *assume that the author believes what the speaker believes*. If the text is non-fiction, do not simply identify the speaker/author by name. Include important facts about the speaker that will help the reader (the audience) make judgments about the speaker’s position (the speaker’s point of view).