

# Source Evaluation Questions and Process for Social Studies

## Crosswalk with College Board’s Advanced Placement SOAPSTONE Document Analysis Method

When examining a single source:



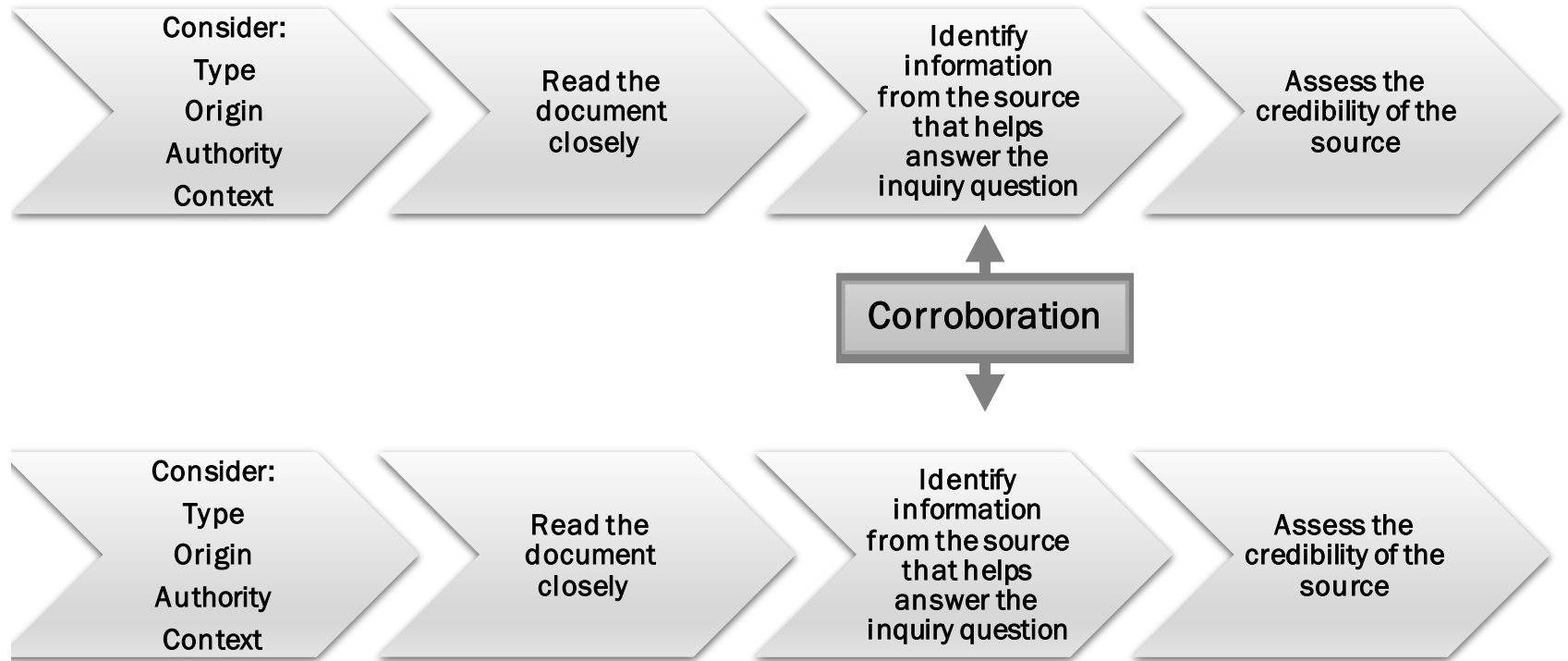
SOAPSTONE*	MSDE Skill	Definition	Questions
No Parallel to MSDE Skill	Type	Analyzing a source to understand its layout and the type of evidence being analyzed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What type of document is this (graph/political cartoon/news article, etc.)?</li> <li>○ Is it a primary or secondary source?</li> </ul>
Speaker	Origin	Analyzing a source to determine basic information about its creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When was this source created?</li> <li>○ Where was this source created?</li> <li>○ Who created this source?</li> </ul>
Speaker Audience Purpose Subject	Authority	Analyzing a source to understand who created it, why it was created, and how those factors may impact the credibility of the information provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What do we know about the author’s perspective and how might it impact the information provided by the source?</li> <li>○ What was the intended audience for this source (public, private, political, etc.) and how might it impact the information provided by the source?</li> <li>○ Why the source was created (to inform, to persuade, etc.) and how might this impact the information the source provides?</li> </ul>
Occasion	Context	Contextualizing a source places it in the time period it was created to determine how events during that time may have influenced the information provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What else was going on at the time the source was created?</li> <li>○ How might the events of this time period impact the information provided by the source?</li> </ul>

No parallel to MSDE skill	Credibility	Determining if the source is relevant to the question being researched and if the information provided should be trusted or believed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have you reviewed the authority, origin, type, context, and corroborative value of the source? If so, do any of these raise questions about the credibility of the source?</li> <li>○ Is the information contained in the source relevant to the question being researched?</li> </ul>
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When comparing multiple sources,



SOAPSTONE*	MSDE Skill	Definition	Questions
No Parallel to MSDE Skill	<b>Corroboration</b>	Comparing the information provided by the original source with a variety of other sources to determine if the sources contradict or support one another.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What do other pieces of evidence say when compared to the first source?</li> <li>○ Am I finding the same information everywhere? If yes, why might that be and if no, why not?</li> <li>○ Am I finding different versions of the story? If yes, why might that be and if no, why not?</li> <li>○ Can I build an argument in response to my claim that is supported by multiple pieces of evidence?</li> </ul>

\* Adapted from Advanced Placement SOAPSTONE. Found at: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/resources/soapstone-strategy-reading-and-writing>