

Source Evaluation Questions and Process for Social Studies

Crosswalk with College Board's Pre-AP APPARTS Document Analysis Method

When examining a single source:



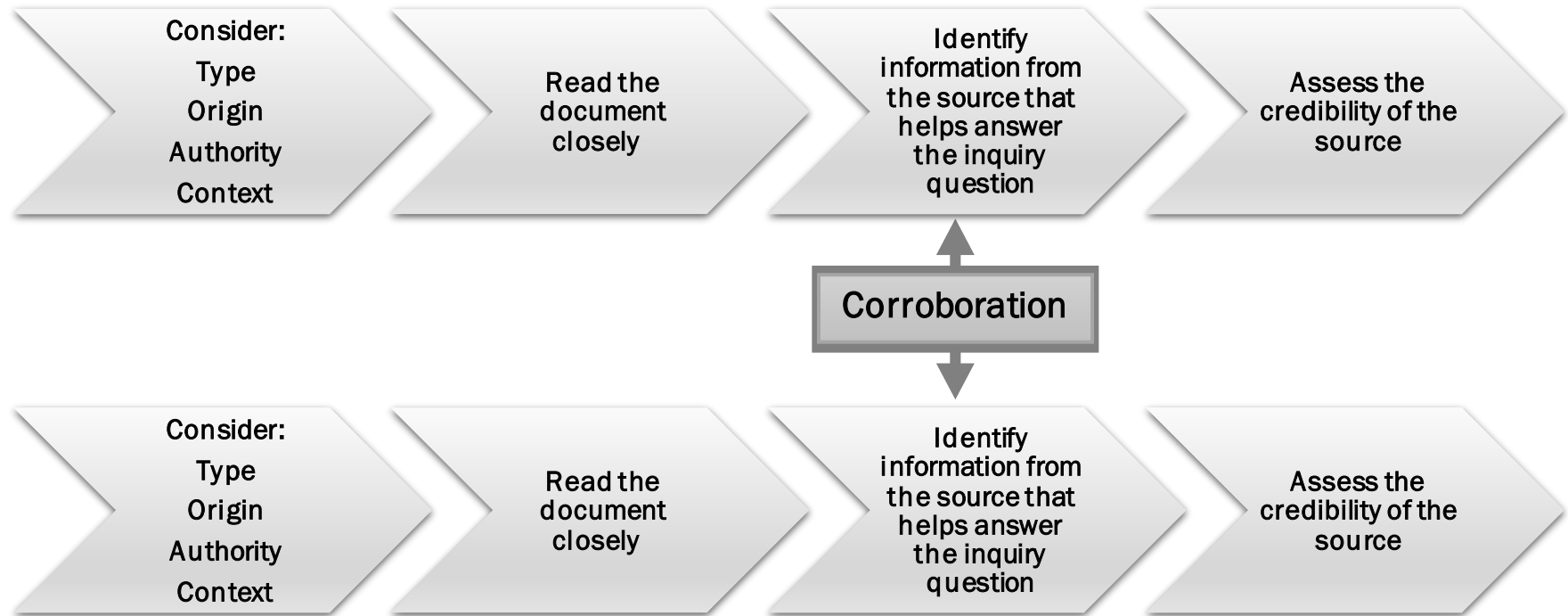
APPARTS*	MSDE Skill	Definition	Questions
No Parallel to MSDE Skill	Type	Analyzing a source to understand its layout and the type of evidence being analyzed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What type of document is this (graph/political cartoon/news article, etc.)? ○ Is it a primary or secondary source?
Author	Origin	Analyzing a source to determine basic information about its creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When was this source created? ○ Where was this source created? ○ Who created this source?
Author Audience Reason 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"> ○ What do we know about the author's perspective and how might it impact the information provided by the source? ○ What was the intended audience for this source (public, private, political, etc.) and how might it impact the information provided by the source? ○ Why the source was created (to inform, to persuade, etc.) and how might this impact the information the source provides?
Place and Time Prior Knowledge	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"> ○ What else was going on at the time the source was created? ○ How might the events of this time period impact the information provided by the source?

Significance	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"> ○ 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? ○ Is the information contained in the source relevant to the question being researched?
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When comparing multiple sources:



APPARTS*	MSDE Skill	Definition	Questions
No Parallel to MSDE Skill	Corroboration	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"> ○ What do other pieces of evidence say when compared to the first source? ○ Am I finding the same information everywhere? If yes, why might that be and if no, why not? ○ Am I finding different versions of the story? If yes, why might that be and if no, why not? ○ Can I build an argument in response to my claim that is supported by multiple pieces of evidence?

* Adapted from Pre-AP APPARTS Document Analysis tool found at: https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/apc/ap05_ushist_greer_2_p_50286.pdf