**Annotating Historical Sources**

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| Explanatory Notes | Critical Commentary (Analysis) |
| Explanatory notes organizes, defines and paraphrases key information.   * **Sourcing:** To effectively source a document, image, film or audio a historian must be attentive to its *specific* *context.* In other words, ask and answer the following questions:   + **Author:** Who wrote this?   + **Bias:** What is the author’s perspective or point of view?   + **Purpose:** Why was it written? Who is the audience?   + **Date:** When was it written?   + **Location:** Where was it written?   + **Value:** What information could this provide about the time in which it was produced?   + **Limitations:** Is there information missing or left out of this source? * **General Context:** What was going on at the time when this source was produced? Were there any major events/ movements that were occurring around the time the source was created? * **Defining words:** Use the dictionary to define new words or to understand the word appropriately in its context. Often, a word will have several definitions; you will have to carefully select the one that is most appropriate for the sentence and context that it is found in. * **Paraphrase:** Put an idea/concept/statement into your own words so that you can better understand and define it. * **88068** If a quote jumps out at you, record it! You may find this useful to return to later. | Critical commentary digs deeper into a topic by analyzing it. *Analyze: To closely and thoughtfully read a document or view a film.* Your reaction to or conversation with the text.  Critical commentary includes the following:   * **Inference**: Based upon the information you have, what assumptions or predictions can you make? * **Question**: What do you wonder? What else do you need/ want to investigate? * **Connect**: What does this remind you of? How can you connect this to current or past issues and events? * **React**: What is your opinion? How do you feel about this information? Why do you think you have this reaction? * **Synthesize**: How does the information from this text add to your understanding of the time period, another document, concept or theme? |