

Origin, Purpose, Value and Limitation

Remember to cross-reference its value and limitation in relation to the origin and purpose of the source NOT the views or the message of the source.



Who is the artist?
Who paid him to draw it? Why is he drawing it? When did he paint it? Is it a real scene?



| ORIGIN | PURPOSE |
|--|--|
| <p>When was it produced? When was it produced? What is the historical context? What was happening at the time the source was produced?</p> <p>Where was it produced? censored / propaganda, archives open?..</p> <p>What type of source is it? Oral Picture – cartoon, portrait, photo Written - speech (public), letter, diary (private) Figures – statistics Etc...</p> <p>Who produced it is important too. Government Opposition / political party Enemy / friend Academic Statesman</p> | <p>What is the authors' purpose / motive in producing this source? NOT what is the message of the source.</p> <p>To make you believe something</p> <p>To change your opinion about something</p> <p>To mislead you</p> <p>To make you support a certain ideology</p> <p>To inform you / educate you</p> <p>To brainwash you</p> <p>To justify an (un)popular) action etc...</p> |
| VALUE of ORIGIN | VALUE of PURPOSE |
| <p>It was written after the archives were opened (important that you recognize the date)</p> <p>The writer works for a reputable</p> | <p>Motive of author would therefore probably be to educate once they'd had access to more material</p> <p>The writer would want to educate his</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| newspaper | readers rather than sensationalize events. |
| The writer is an eyewitness | The writer would want to report what he saw |
| It is written with the benefit of hindsight | It is written with the benefit of hindsight |
| The author is a reputable commentator on events from this time | The author is a reputable commentator on events from this time |
| It is representative of ...views at the time | The views are therefore likely to represent ... official policy |
| The author would have had access to official papers and documents | The author would want to use his extensive knowledge to present an objective view of events |
| If it is written by a party official / president / head of state it is likely to be official party policy | The value of the purpose of this source would be that it gives us a valuable insight into what ... wanted us to believe at the time. |
| Sources can give the reader valuable insight into the mind of the author | This allows us to understand why the author wrote the source. |
| LIMITATION of ORIGIN | LIMITATION OF PURPOSE |
| It is a speech so may be a justification and therefore cannot be taken at face value | If it is a speech it may be used to 'justify' something – check the motive of author (propaganda etc) |
| The style of writing is journalistic | The authors' purpose is probably to sensationalize events so therefore probably not very accurate account of what happened |
| It was written long after the events that it describes (eyewitness) | The author might not remember events as they happened or could be selective with information |
| Lack of sympathy with the subject of the source | This would make you question the motive of the author. |
| The writers political views are not known | What is the motive of the author? |
| The source is written as an official history | It's the official history of ...so it may not be totally objective |
| The book is a compilation of events | It is a compilation so the author would have been selective in the use of evidence Does it exaggerate or fail to mention something? |
| Where did the information come from? | Statistics and figures may not be reliable |
| NO points for these comments unless they are developed | |
| Primary evidence, secondary evidence | Secondary evidence, biased |