Fitzgerald

**Answering a Document-based Question**

**Before answering**

* Read the introduction or background information
* Read or examine the whole document
* Recall what you have studied in class on the topic
* Jot down ideas quickly on the planning sheet

**Answer**

* Begin with a topic sentence
  + respond to the prompt - specifically using wording in the prompt
  + state your main idea
* **Support** the main idea to the answer with four types of ideas
  + ideas from
    - the introduction to the document or background information
    - the document itself
    - your studies
  + possible questions that could be asked about the document
* **Include general** ideas about the document
  + historical context
    - **when created**
    - **where created**
    - **within what group of people**
  + author
    - **who** the author is
    - **what you know about him or her** from your studies or **what can be guessed** is true of him from clues in the document.
    - his or her intended **audience**.
    - whether he or she meant for the document to be p**ublic or private**.
    - his or her **purpose** for creating the document. reliability
  + reliability
    - Did the author/creator have any **bias** or **prejudice** on the topic?
      * + **Bias** – a predisposition to view something positively
        + **Prejudice** – a predisposition to view something negatively
    - Did the author have **first-hand knowledge or not**?
  + whether it corroborates or contradicts our studies
    - to **corroborate** = to support
    - to **contradict** = speak against, conflict with

**Common types of documents to expect include**

* Important government documents
  + like the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Gettysburg Address
* Letters, Diaries, and Journals
* Newspaper articles
* Political cartoon
* Maps
* Charts
* Photographs
* Paintings

Fitzgerald Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Document Analysis Worksheet

**Before answering**

* Read the introduction or background information
* Read or examine the whole document
* Recall what you have studied in class on the topic
* Jot down ideas quickly on the planning sheet

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Prompt |  |
| Topic Sentence   * state your main idea * use prompt's wording |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Support** | |
| Key points from title, introduction. background, key to include |  |
| Key ideas from document to include |  |
| Important ideas on the topic from our studies/ notes to include |  |
| **General Ideas to Include** | **Points and Explanation** |
| Historical Context   * **when created** * **where created** * **within what group of people** |  |
| **Who is the author?**  **What you know about him or her** from your studies?  or  **What can be guessed** and what clues in the document allow the reader to guess this? |  |
| **Intended audience**?  Was the document to be p**ublic or private**?  What is its **purpose**? |  |
| **Reliability** -  Did the author/creator have any **bias** or **prejudice** on the topic?  (tendency to view topic positively or negatively)  Did the author have **first-hand knowledge or not**? |  |
| Does the document corroborate or contradict our studies?  (support or conflict) |  |