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)  |  |