Introducing the Historian's Tools
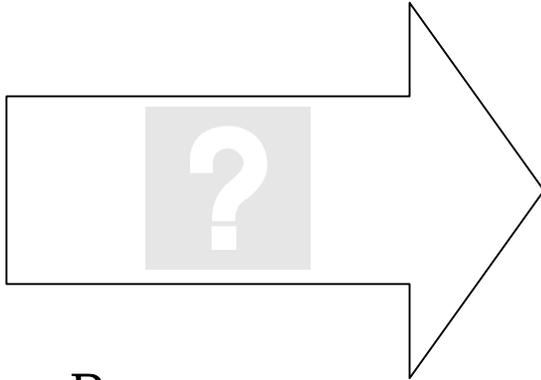
1) Introduce **Historical Context** using the Historical Context Icon Card.
2) Ask students,
   What place and time was the document was written? Record that information on the Evidence Collection frame in the section with the Historical Context icon.

   What important things are going on at the time that relate to the document? Record that information on the Evidence Collection frame in the section with the Historical Context icon.

3) If students DO NOT understand what was happening at this time in history, it is important to look at secondary sources or historical fiction to build background knowledge before going further.
4) Introduce **Author/Speaker/Creator** using the Author/Speaker/Creator Icon Card.
5) Ask students,
   Who is the person that wrote the document?

   What is their occupation or background?

   How does this information help you understand this document? Record that information on the Evidence Collection frame in the section with the Author/Speaker/Creator icon.

6) Continue this pattern with each icon in the following order.
7) **Type of Document**
   Questions: What type of document is it?

8) **Document Content**
   Questions: What is the author saying?

   What details are important?

   What is the main idea of the document?

9) **Audience/Listener/Recipient**
   Questions: Who is the person or people that the document was written for? What is their occupation, background, etc. How does this information help you understand this document?

10) **Purpose**
    Questions: Why is the author writing this document?

    Does the author want something specific to happen by writing this document?

11) Throughout the process, have student record questions that arise or unanswered questions that they have on post its. Read questions at the end of the lesson. Place all post its in a central location after they have been read.
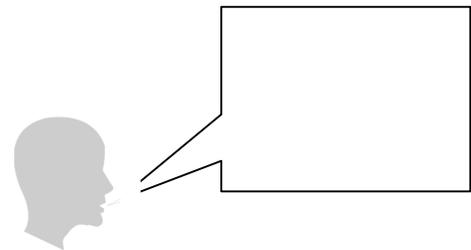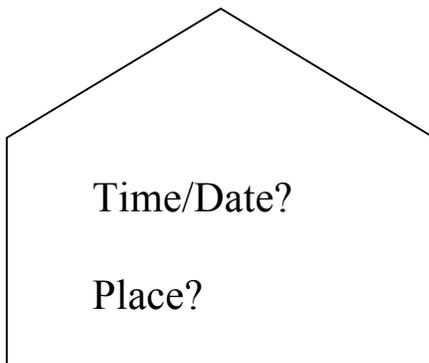
Author/Speaker/Creator

Audience/Listener/
Recipient

Purpose

Document/Source
Content

Time/Date?

Place?

Historical Context

Type of Document or
Source

- Who was the intended audience of this source?

- How does this information help you to understand this document?

- Who wrote (or created) the source?
- What is the background of the author (age, nationality, social class, occupation, etc.)?
- Why does the background of the author/creator matter?

- What is the author saying?

- What is the main idea of the document?

- What details are important?

- Why did the author write this document or create this source?

- Does the author want something specific to happen by writing this document?

- What type of document or source is it?
- Examples
  - Photograph
  - Letter
  - Painting
  - Artifact
- How does this information help you understand this document or source?

- Where was this written?

- When was this written?

- What important things were going on at the time that relate to the document?