

IB: OPCVL Strategies

Introduction: Part of the IB assessment in History deals with document analysis. Students are expected to analyze primary and secondary sources for their **O**rigin, **P**urpose, **C**ontent, **V**alue and **L**imitation. These levels of analysis can be addressed through the following types of questions:

ORIGIN	Who created it? Who is the author? When was it created? When was it published? Where was it published?
PURPOSE	Why was it written? Why does this document exist? Why did the author choose this particular format? Who is the intended audience? Who was the author thinking would receive this?
CONTENT	What does the source say? What does it talk about? Place it in its historical context.
VALUE	How is the source useful in learning about the topic? Under what circumstances was the piece created and how does the piece reflect those circumstances? What can we tell about any controversies from the piece? Does the author present a particular side of a controversy or event? What can we tell about the author's perspectives from the piece? What was going on in history at the time the piece was created and how does this piece accurately reflect it?
LIMITATION	What part of the story can we not tell from the document? How could we verify the content of the piece? Does this piece accurately reflect anything about the time period? What does the author leave out and why do they leave it out? What is purposefully omitted (left out)?

First, read the documents to determine OPCVL. After, complete the following sentence frames to answer an OPCVL. You will combine parts of OPCVL in your analysis. For example, you must identify 2 values and 2 limitations that are successfully linked to origin, purpose, or content. There must be at least one reference to origin, purpose, and content in either the value or limitations. Reminder: Be specific and use obvious language in your sentence frames.

Value of Origin:

Because ___(origin: author, date or location)___, a historian studying ___(topic)___ can learn ___(be specific)___.

Limitation of Origin:

Because ___(origin: author, date or location)___, a historian studying ___(topic)___ can't learn ___(be specific)___.

The content of the source is valuable because a historian studying ___(topic)___ can specifically learn _____. (This is content that is not connected to the origin or purpose)

Value of the Purpose:

Because the purpose is ___(use a verb from list below)___, a historian studying ___(topic)___ can learn ___(be specific)___.

Limitation of Purpose:

Because the purpose is ___(use a verb from list below)___, a historian studying ___(topic)___ can't learn ___(be specific)___.

Verb Chart: Use this verb list to help you accurately and specifically articulate the purpose of your source in the sentence frame.

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|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Analyzing | Clarifying | Extending | Offering | Challenging |
| Arguing | Concluding | Explaining | Proving | Establishing |
| Asserting | Defining | Interpreting | Questioning | Listing |
| Comparing | Debating | Illustrating | Qualifying | Stating |
| Contrasting | Discussing | Introducing | Suggesting | |
| Connecting | Developing | Justifying | Summarizing | |
