

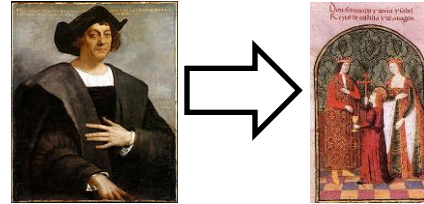
Primary Source Analysis

The Age of Exploration & Discovery

Name: _____

This assignment will be turned in for a homework grade.
You may print this sheet or re-create it in handwritten form.

A Letter from Christopher Columbus to the King and Queen of Spain



On a DBQ, students are expected to analyze FOUR (4) of the SEVEN (7) documents in the set. The most common form of analysis is to evaluate the author's Point of View (POV).

<p>Point Of View</p> <p><i>What are some things about the author that might affect his or her perception of the situation?</i></p>	
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In lieu of POV (or in addition to it), students may analyze the document's *Context, Audience,* and/or *Purpose* (CAP) in order to get credit for document analysis.

<p>Context</p> <p><i>What is the historical background surrounding the document? How should that effect how the reader views the content of the document?</i></p>	
<p>Audience</p> <p><i>To whom is the document written and how will that affect the tone of the document? Does the audience make the content of the document any more or less credible?</i></p>	
<p>Purpose</p> <p><i>Why was this document written? What was the author seeking to accomplish?</i></p> <p><i>(NOTE: There may be more than one purpose.)</i></p>	

A Letter from Columbus to the King and Queen of Spain (1494?)

Medieval Sourcebook: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/columbus2.asp>

Document

1.16

ACTIVE READING

Most High and Mighty Sovereigns,

In obedience to your Highnesses' commands, and with submission to superior judgment, I will say whatever occurs to me in reference to the colonization and commerce of the Island of Espanola, and of the other islands, both those already discovered and those that may be discovered hereafter.

In the first place, as regards the Island of Espanola: Inasmuch as the number of colonists who desire to go thither amounts to two thousand, owing to the land being safer and better for farming and trading, and because it will serve as a place to which they can return and from which they can carry on trade with the neighboring islands:

1. That in the said island there shall be founded three or four towns, situated in the most convenient places, and that the settlers who are there be assigned to the aforesaid places and towns.
2. That for the better and more speedy colonization of the said island, no one shall have liberty to collect gold in it except those who have taken out colonists' papers, and have built houses for their abode, in the town in which they are, that they may live united and in greater safety...
3. That there shall be a church, and parish priests or friars to administer the sacraments, to perform divine worship, and for the conversion of the Indians.
4. That none of the colonists shall go to seek gold without a license from the governor... of the town where he lives; and that he must first take oath to return to the place whence he sets out, for the purpose of registering faithfully all the gold he may have found, and to return once a month, or once a week... to render account and show the quantity of said gold; and that this shall be written down by the notary... or, if it seems better, that a friar or priest, deputed for the purpose, shall be also present.
5. That all the gold thus brought in shall be smelted immediately, and stamped with some mark that shall distinguish each town; and that the portion which belongs to your Highnesses shall be weighed... and registered by the above-mentioned priest or friar, so that it shall not pass through the hands of only one person, and there shall be no opportunity to conceal the truth.
6. That all gold that may be found without the mark of one of the said towns in the possession of anyone who has once registered in accordance with the above order shall be taken as forfeited, and that the accuser shall have one portion of it and your Highnesses the other.
7. That one per centum of all the gold that may be found shall be set aside for building churches and adorning the same, and for the support of the priests or friars belonging to them...
8. As regards the division of the gold, and the share that ought to be reserved for your Highnesses... your Highnesses might, for the space of one year, take one half, and the collector the other, and a better arrangement for the division be made afterward.
9. That if the... notaries shall commit or be privy to any fraud, punishment shall be provided, and the same for the colonists who shall not have declared all the gold they have.
10. That in the said island there shall be a treasurer, with a clerk to assist him, who shall receive all the gold belonging to your Highnesses, and the... notaries of the towns shall each keep a record of what they deliver to the said treasurer.
11. As, in the eagerness to get gold, everyone will wish, naturally, to engage in its search in preference to any other employment, it seems to me that the privilege of going to look for gold ought to be withheld during some portion of each year, that there may be opportunity to have the other business necessary for the island performed...

I beg your Highnesses to hold me in your protection; and I remain, praying our Lord God for your Highnesses' lives and the increase of much greater States.