Identify the author's argument in response to the historical question.

- Which side is the author on?
- How would the author respond to the historical question?

Read each paragraph and ask about the author's main idea.

- What is the author describing in this paragraph?
- What is the main idea of this paragraph?
- Does this main idea relate to or answer the historical question? How?

Examine the author's reliability.

- Who wrote this document and what judgments can we make about him/her?
- Why did s/he write this? Clue = Type of document, audience, & occasion for writing?

Assess the influence of context.

- How might place have influenced the writing of this document? Clue = Compare place document written to location of events
- What else was going on at this time in history? Clue = Identify historical events & when docs were written.

Determine the quality of the author's facts and examples.

- What facts or examples does the author give to support his/her argument?
- How do facts or examples support the author's argument?
- Where do the facts or examples come from?
Identify the author's argument in response to the historical question.

- Put a big box at the top and write the author's main argument.

Read each ¶ and ask about the author's main idea.

- Underline sentences that tell you the author's main idea.
- OR
- Write the main idea in 3-4 words next to each ¶.

Examine the ★ author's reliability.

- ★ Star ★ information about the author, his/her purpose, type of document, audience, and occasion for writing.
- ★ Judge: Write 1 reason to doubt the author or 1 reason to trust the author.

Assess the influence of context.

- Put →arrows← next to information about the context—dates, of docs, location, & historical events.
- Make timeline.
- ★ Judge: Given what else was going on at this time/place, write why the author's argument does/doesn't make sense.

Determine the quality of the author's facts & examples.

- ★ Star ★ information about the author, his/her purpose, type of document, audience, and occasion for writing.
- ★ Judge: Write why the author's facts and examples are/are not convincing.

Author believes the colonists fired first.

Soldiers marched all night.