

The C - A - R - E Protocol for Non-Fiction and Other Historic Sources

When we read compositions from past eras, we can uncover the culture, or the underlying beliefs, assumptions, and ideas of a particular people. Unpacking that culture can help us to understand why people in previous time periods acted as they did.

Here's a protocol, or a method for deconstructing a non-fiction or other historical source. Use each question as a starting point; dip deeply, and consider how particular composers helped to shape the culture and lifestyle of a particular people.

The C - A - R - E Protocol

Criteria	Text #1: Chief Seattle	Text #2: A Creation Story
C- Composer Who created the source? What background information can you determine about this person? How does the composer's background inform the text? What point of view does this person have about society and culture?		
A-Audience For what audience was this source created? What was the culture like of that audience? When and where was the source created? How do the cultural contexts of that era inform the content of the text?		
R- Reason For what reason was this source created? What larger purposes did it serve? What persuasive techniques were incorporated to get across its underlying message? What is that underlying message?		

E- Explanation

What is the significance of this composition? Consider its impact on other people's point of view and its eventual historic consequences. How can we interpret the text now, after many years have passed and social and cultural norms have changed? What do we learn about our contemporary times by understanding this text?

Synthesis: Why should we **C - A - R - E**? Reread all the evidence and findings you have entered into both columns above. What deductions can you draw about the two texts in combination? In other words, what is important to take away from considering these two texts together? Use the knowledge and understanding you bring today as a participant in 21st century society and culture. Write 2-3 concisely designed sentences.

