

## SOURCING ESSAY: WHO STARTED THE COLD WAR?

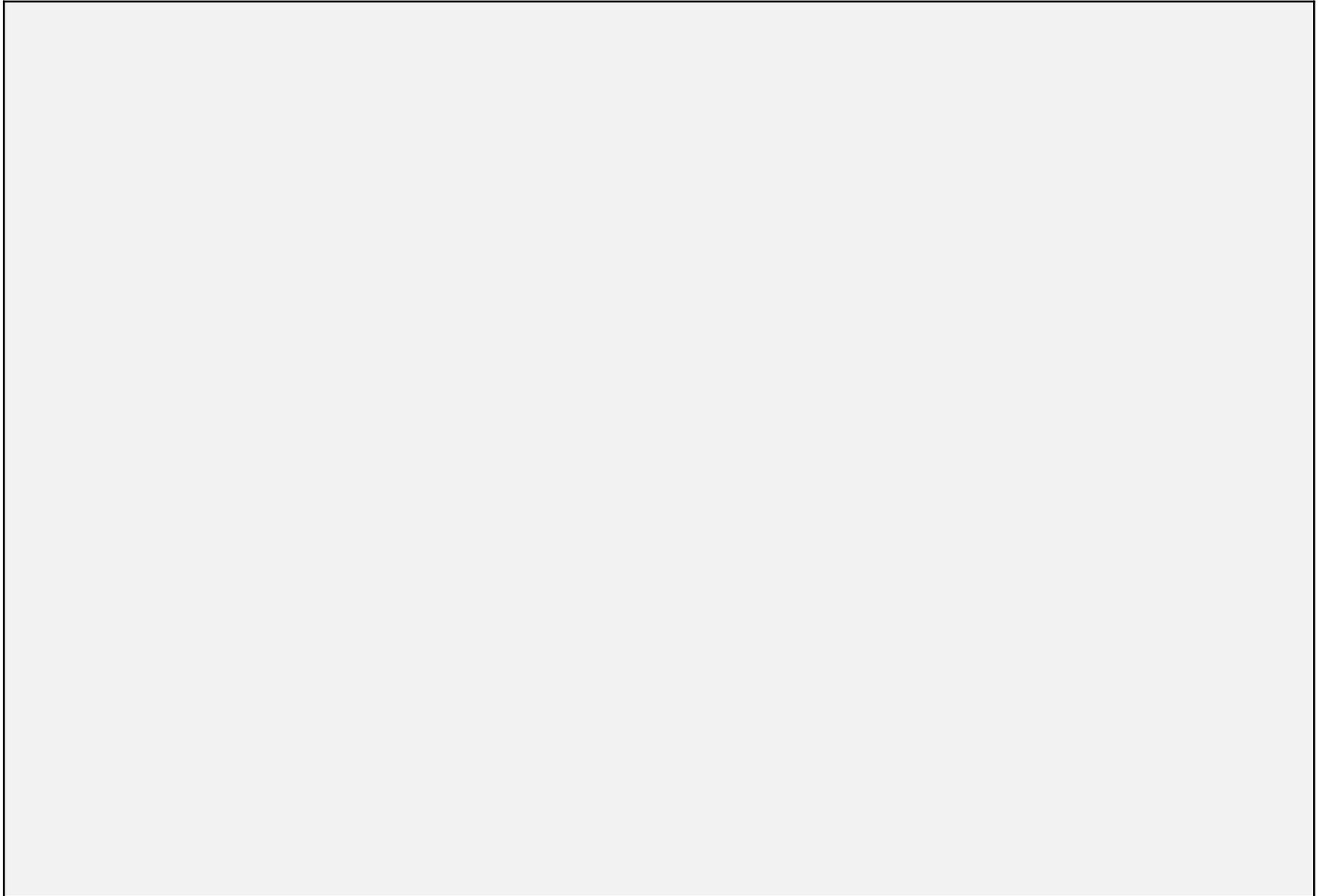
### Purpose

Put all your sourcing skills to use by writing an essay that attempts to answer the question, *Who started the Cold War?* Use your completed Sourcing Tool and provide an analysis focusing on point of view, purpose, and importance. This will help you more fully see that without properly understanding an author’s perspective and the historical context surrounding the creation of the source, it’s difficult to properly interpret and understand the importance of a document.

### Process

1. Using the Sourcing Tool you completed in [Sourcing: Who Started the Cold War?](#), write a four- or five-paragraph essay in response to this prompt: *Develop an argument that explains the extent to which the causes of the Cold War were similar in the US and USSR.* Your paragraphs should make specific reference to the Point of View, Purpose, and Importance sections of the tool but can include other categories as well.
2. Remember to look over the [OER Project Writing Rubric](#), as this is what your teacher will use to assess your essay. Your essay should include the following elements:
  - Introduction: A paragraph that includes a thesis statement and provides the historical context necessary to understand this event and how the thesis relates to this context.
  - Body paragraph 1: An analysis of the first primary source document that includes information on how your reading of this text supports your thesis statement. This paragraph should focus on the point of view and purpose of the author.
  - Body paragraph 2: An analysis of the second primary source document that includes information on how your reading of this text supports your thesis statement. This paragraph should focus on the point of view and purpose of the author.
  - Body paragraph 3: An analysis of how understanding the differing perspectives of these sources helps you understand their importance and helps you answer the prompt.
  - Conclusion: A paragraph that synthesizes the information in your essay and explains how your conclusions support your thesis statement.

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