# **The Election of 1876: Reading Like a Historian\***

## Read #1

**Stop and Source**: Read **ONLY** the bibliographic information about the document. This information is usually found near the top or the bottom of the source. **DO NOT** read the body of the material.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Who created the primary source?** | **What type of source is it? (**ex: letter, diary, photo) | **When was the source created?** | **Who was the intended audience?** |
|  |  |  |  |

## Read #2

Carefully read the main body of the document. **Underline** the **ONE** sentence that you think best captures the **MAIN IDEA** of the document. Note: not everyone will choose the same sentence

## Read #3

### RE-READ the main body of the document. This time underline or highlight words and phrases that you think are important in helping to support your claim for the main idea of the source.

## Read #4

**REVIEWING** the information from Reads #1-3, **make 3 observations** about the source in the boxes below. Because every observation should be anchored directly to information you found in the source, put the # of your observation next to the part of the document that helped you reach that conclusion.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Observation #1** | **Observation #2** | **Observation #3** |
|  |  |  |

Finally, think about you observations. What **QUESTIONS** would you like to ask? Write them below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question #1** |  |
| **Question #2** |  |

\*Adapted from “Four Reads: Learning to Read Primary Documents (<http://teachinghistory.org/teaching-materials/teaching-guides/25690>)



