

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.

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.

Observation #1	Observation #2	Observation #3

Finally, think about your 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>)

