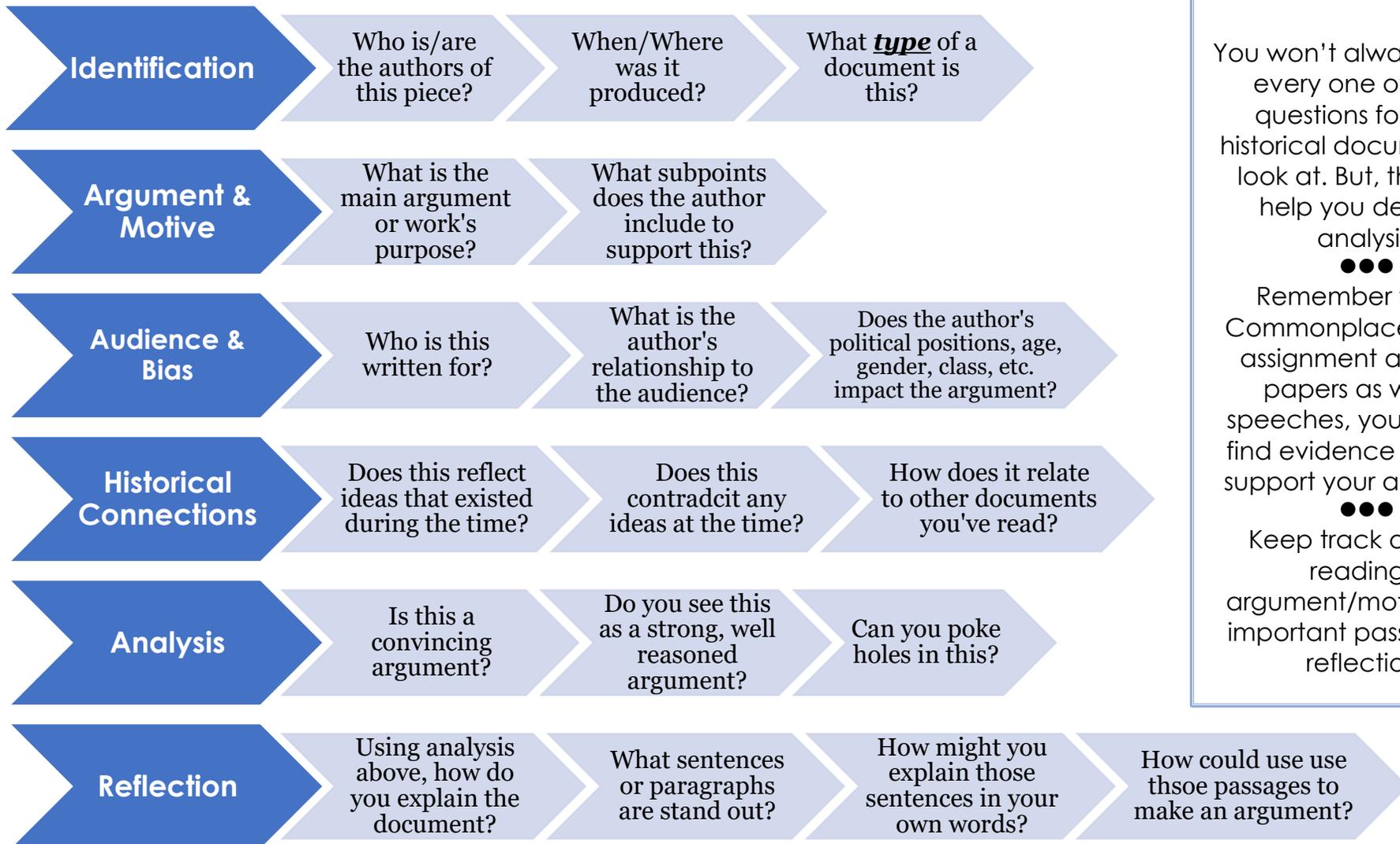


HOW TO ANALYZE A PRIMARY SOURCE

Primary sources – whether written documents, cartoons, artwork, court cases, or even interviews – reveals the experiences of people in the past. History is about *interpreting* or analyzing these primary sources. Historians use primary sources to make informed arguments about the past, taking evidence from primary sources.

For this class, you'll read primary sources twice – both as a 21st-century student and again “in character.” You'll *interpret* the purpose, the evidence, the nuance, and the arguments presented in these works while considering how the document can be used to make various arguments. Drawing upon primary sources will make your arguments stronger.



You won't always answer every one of these questions for each historical document you look at. But, they can help you develop analysis.



Remember for the Commonplace Journal assignment and your papers as well as speeches, you need to find evidence to use to support your argument.



Keep track of each reading's argument/motives and important passages for reflection.