



3, 2, 1 Reading

The three-step 3, 2, 1 Reading strategy guides students through a structured approach to source analysis by prompting them to extract, connect, and summarize key ideas. This method encourages active reading, historical thinking, and concise synthesis by gradually moving from detailed comprehension to broader contextualization and finally to summary.

In the first phase, students identify three key ideas from the source. These ideas may include central claims, significant facts, or meaningful quotes—captured in their own words to reinforce understanding and discourage passive copying.

In the second phase, students generate two connections between the reading and other historical events, people, ideas, or themes. These connections may relate to prior knowledge, class content, or current events, inviting students to place the source in a broader historical context and draw meaningful parallels.

In the third phase, students write one clear sentence that summarizes the overall message, argument, or takeaway from the text. This step requires them to distill complex content into a concise statement, reinforcing their grasp of the reading and strengthening their summarization skills.

By engaging in this 3, 2, 1 progression—from close reading to contextual thinking to precise communication—students deepen their comprehension, make interdisciplinary links, and practice clarity in historical analysis. The 3, 2, 1 Reading strategy cultivates intentional reading habits and empowers students to move from surface-level understanding to thoughtful interpretation.

