



Expand it!

The three-phase Expand It strategy guides students through a layered exploration of perspective by incrementally broadening their understanding of a topic. This method encourages students to engage with diverse sources and viewpoints in order to construct a more nuanced interpretation of historical figures and events.

In the first phase, students write a single sentence summarizing a historical figure's perspective—based on a close reading of a short text—at the top of the "Expand It" triangle.

In the second phase, they read about another figure and complete the middle tier of the triangle by comparing and contrasting the two individuals' experiences and beliefs. This step challenges students to identify both commonalities and distinctions between perspectives.

In the third phase, students explore additional sources and then synthesize their thinking to complete the bottom row of the triangle, expanding their understanding beyond the original figures to consider broader historical perspectives.

By progressing from individual perspective to comparative analysis and then toward a collective, multi-voice synthesis, students deepen their empathy, sharpen source analysis, and develop a fuller grasp of historical complexity.

