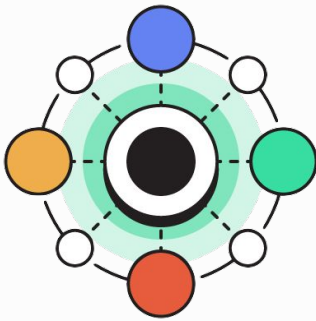


Formative Assessment: Contextualization and Sourcing



Thinking historically means interpreting historical events, developments, or processes in light of the surrounding historical context. It also means understanding key information about a historical source, such as its purpose, perspective, and reliability as a piece of evidence.

Directions: Read the following primary source. Then, answer the questions on contextualization that follow. The multiple choice questions for this formative assessment are Weighted Multiple Choice (WMC) Questions. This means that there is only one *incorrect* answer, but the other 3 choices are weighted. The *best* answer is 3 points, the *second-best* answer is 2 points, and the *third-best* answer is 1 point. The *incorrect* answer is 0 points.

This document comes from a leading Mexican revolutionary, Emiliano Zapata, toward the beginning of the Mexican Revolution which lasted until 1920.

Source: Emiliano Zapata and Otilio Montaño, "Plan of Ayala," November 28, 1911. Original at [Library of Congress](#).

...we declare the aforementioned Francisco I. Madero inept at realizing the promises of the revolution of which he was the author, because he has betrayed the principles with which he tricked the will of the people and was able to get into power: incapable of governing, because he has no respect for the law and justice of the pueblos, and a traitor to the fatherland, because he is humiliating in blood and fire, Mexicans who want liberties, so as to please the científicos [elite advisors to Porfirio Diaz], landlords, and bosses who enslave us, and from today on we begin to continue the revolution begun by him, until we achieve the overthrow of the dictatorial powers which exist.

...As an additional part of the plan, we invoke, we give notice: that [regarding] the fields, timber, and water which the landlords, científicos, or bosses have usurped, the pueblos or citizens who have the titles corresponding to those properties will immediately enter into possession of that real estate of which they have been despoiled by the bad faith of our oppressors, maintain at any cost with arms in hand the mentioned possession; and the usurpers who consider themselves with a right to them [those properties] will deduce it before the special tribunals which will be established on the triumph of the revolution.



1. Each of the following statements is a historical fact that is related to the above document. Which historical fact *best* helps to contextualize the purpose of the above document? In other words, which fact *best* helps us understand why this document was written?
 - A. In May 1911, Francisco Madero successfully defeated the government troops of Dictator Porfirio Diaz and became Mexico's President.
 - B. Beginning in 1876, Porfirio Diaz ruled Mexico for 35 years.
 - C. Francisco Madero advocated for political rights for Mexicans while Emiliano Zapata wanted real land reform.
 - D. Emiliano Zapata was born poor in the southern Mexican state of Morelos.

2. Justify your choice in the space below.



1. Each of the following statements is a historical fact that is related to the above document. Which historical fact *best* helps to contextualize the purpose of the above document? In other words, which fact *best* helps us understand why this document was written?
 - A. In May 1911, Francisco Madero successfully defeated the government troops of Dictator Porfirio Diaz and became Mexico's President. **(1 point)**
 - B. Beginning in 1876, Porfirio Diaz ruled Mexico for 35 years. **(2 points)**
 - C. Francisco Madero advocated for political rights for Mexicans while Emiliano Zapata wanted real land reform. **(3 points)**
 - D. Emiliano Zapata was born poor in the southern Mexican state of Morelos. **(0 points)**

2. Justify your choice in the space below.

Choice C, worth 3 points, is the most helpful statement for contextualizing the purpose of the primary source. It explains the fundamental difference between Madero and Zapata that would lead Zapata to condemn Madero's leadership. Choice B is also helpful and worth 2 points, because by knowing that Diaz ruled Mexico for 35 years, it becomes clear why Zapata is so fed up with "more of the same." Choice A is worth 1 point because it provides helpful context of how short lived Madero's presidency was before he was already challenged by other revolutionaries. Lastly, Choice D is not related to Zapata's purpose for this document and so is worth 0 points.



1. Weighted Multiple Choice

3 points (Choice C)	2 points (Choice B)	1 point (Choice A)	0 points (Choice D)
			Subtotal: _____ / 3

2. Short Answer: Justify Your Answer

3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Student thoroughly justifies their choice of the <i>best</i> fact—which was worth three points as shown on the teacher key—that would help contextualize the purpose of the source.	Student thoroughly justifies their choice of either the 1 or 2 point option from the WMC question. OR Student’s justification of the 3 point option needs deeper analysis.	Student’s justification of their choice (either the 1 or 2 point option) lacks deep analysis.	Student either makes no attempt to justify their choice OR tries to justify the 0 point option.
			Subtotal: _____ / 3

Total: _____ / 6

