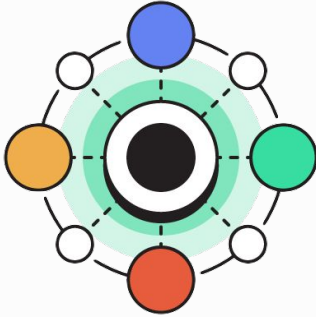


Formative Assessment: Contextualization and Sourcing



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.

Formative Assessment: Contextualization and Sourcing

Source: Warren K. Leffler, "A man and a woman watching a film footage of the Vietnam war on a television in their living room," February 13, 1968. [Library of Congress](#).



1. Each of the following statements is a historical fact that is related to the picture. Which historical fact *best* helps to contextualize the purpose of the above picture? In other words, which fact *best* helps us understand what this picture represents?
 - A. Unlike during WWII, journalists wrote day-to-day coverage and recorded their stories on the front lines.
 - B. In 1950, 9% of American households had TVs. In 1968, 94.6% of American households had TVs.
 - C. There were 536,100 American soldiers in Vietnam in 1968.
 - D. The media's coverage of Vietnam played a direct role in American public opinion questioning or condemning the war.

2. Justify your choice in the space below.



1. Each of the following statements is a historical fact that is related to the picture. Which historical fact *best* helps to contextualize the purpose of the above picture? In other words, which fact *best* helps us understand what this picture represents?
 - A. Unlike during WWII, journalists wrote day-to-day coverage and recorded their stories on the front lines. **(2 points)**
 - B. In 1950, 9% of American households had TVs. In 1968, 94.6% of American households had TVs. **(1 point)**
 - C. There were 536,100 American soldiers in Vietnam in 1968. **(0 points)**
 - D. The media's coverage of Vietnam played a direct role in American public opinion questioning or condemning the war. **(3 points)**

2. Justify your choice in the space below.

Choice D, worth 3 points, is the most helpful statement for contextualizing the purpose of the picture. It explains why a picture like this is so representative of the media's role during the Vietnam War. Choice A is also helpful and worth 2 points, as it demonstrates that this type of media coverage is new compared to past wars. Choice B is worth 1 point because even though it does not specifically address the war, it contextualized the role of TV in American society at that time. Lastly, Choice C is worth 0 points because without further context it does not clearly relate to the purpose of the image.



1. Weighted Multiple Choice

3 points (Choice D)	2 points (Choice A)	1 point (Choice B)	0 points (Choice C)
			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

