

## Sourcing Examples

### Audience: Audience & Type of Document

1. “John Adams wrote this account of the Boston Massacre in a letter to his wife. He vividly discusses the horrors of the event and then confirms the safety of several of their dear friends who live in Boston. Because it is an intimate letter written to his wife, he is very honest and open about the events. His tone is one of deep concern for their friends who were involved and his purpose is to inform his wife because he knows she would be concerned about these people and he wants to end her worries for their safety.

### Point of View: Position, Status, Nationality, Religion...

2. Hammurabi, being the king of Babylon, would have been seen as a source that had authority. The Babylonians would have read Hammurabi’s Code and known that had to obey it because it had the seal of the king. Also, because Hammurabi was Babylonian himself, he would have firsthand knowledge of the major issues in Babylon, which would help him achieve his purpose of the document which was to create laws that deal with the real issues of the civilization and help solve disputes.”
3. “Ibn Batutta, as a traveler of the Islamic world, had been to many diverse places and seen how other civilizations treat women. As a result, he knew that the treatment of women of Mali was drastically different—so he writes about this. He is also shocked by how free the women are because he is an orthodox Muslim, so he has been taught that women should be veiled in public. His purpose is to inform other Muslims of the wide diversity of how women are treated in other Muslim communities.”
4. “His background as a historian leads to the assumption that he would be a credible source because historians are supposed to retell, as accurately as possible, the past. As a current historian, he would be involved in detailed research on the subject, so his knowledge is based on primary sources from that time period. His purpose is to ensure that history is recorded accurately for others to learn from.”
5. “His views of the ruler are probably valid because he was an outside observer, but also a contemporary of the king giving him the opportunity for direct observations. His purpose was to inform others back home about the different ways of dealing with the issue.”
6. “As an American himself, Thomas Jefferson had felt and experienced the loss of his rights from the British government firsthand. He had suffered under the British government’s acts that limited his freedoms and rights (such as the Sugar Act, Stamp Act) and knew that the British had been unresponsive to the Americans’ pleas for more rights. As a result of his experiences, he wrote with much authority the Declaration of Independence with the purpose of informing Britain why the colonies were separating.”

### Point of View Key Words:

Firsthand, eye-witness, contemporary, outside observer, tone, motive, purpose, point of view, persuasive, propaganda, credible, accurate, biased

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