

**Excerpts: Kautilya – *The Artashastra*, c. 250 BCE and Ashoka’s *Seven Pillar Edicts* c. 237 BCE**



*When you analyze a document for a DBQ or SAQ, there are several things that you’ll need to get comfortable doing relatively quickly. So today we will practice the main skill of writing two-three sentence summaries by grabbing a document’s main ideas, sourcing the document, and then summarizing the document using both.*

**Main Ideas of the Document:** First, you need to make sure you actually understand the document. As you read the document, identify keywords and phrases that show the main idea(s) of the excerpt.

**“Sourcing” the Document:** You are expected to understand and explain how the document is shaped by the author as well as what is going on in the world at the time the document is written. You will use the following four “sourcing” methods to aid in your interpretation and analysis of documents, making sure to link your analysis to WHY it impacts the source:

- **Historical Context:** What is going on politically/ economically/socially that could influence this document?
- **Audience:** Who is this written for? How does that affect how you interpret the document?
- **Point of View:** How could the author’s nationality, class, race, gender, religion, occupation, etc. influence their views?
- **Purpose:** Why is the Author writing it? What is their intent or goal? Are they reliable?

**Summarize the Document:** In two to three sentences, summarize the main ideas of the document, utilizing keywords and phrases that you had, or that you gleaned through discussion with your peers. Somewhere you should also include the sourcing element you chose in your summary.

**Kautilya – *The Artashastra*, c. 250 BCE**

**BOOK I: CONCERNING DISCIPLINE, CHAPTER XIX, THE DUTIES OF A KING**

<p><b>Main Ideas/ Key Points</b></p>	
<p><b>“Source” the Document (Choose ONE HAPP, and include Y)</b></p>	
<p><b>Document Summary, including a “Sourcing” Sentence.</b></p>	

**Book III: CONCERNING LAW, CHAPTER II. CONCERNING MARRIAGE. THE DUTY OF MARRIAGE, THE PROPERTY OF A WOMAN, AND COMPENSATIONS FOR REMARRIAGE.**

<b>Main Ideas/ Key Points</b>	
<b>“Source” the Document (Choose ONE HAPP, and include Y)</b>	
<b>Document Summary, including a “Sourcing” Sentence.</b>	

**BOOK IV: REMOVAL OF THORNS, CHAPTER III. REMEDIES AGAINST NATIONAL CALAMITIES.**

<b>Main Ideas/ Key Points</b>	
<b>“Source” the Document (Choose ONE HAPP, and include Y)</b>	
<b>Document Summary, including a “Sourcing” Sentence.</b>	

**BOOK X: RELATING TO WAR, CHAPTER III. FORMS OF TREACHEROUS FIGHTS; ENCOURAGEMENT TO ONE'S OWN ARMY AND FIGHT BETWEEN ONE'S OWN AND ENEMY'S ARMIES.**

<b>Main Ideas/ Key Points</b>	
<b>“Source” the Document (Choose ONE HAPP, and include Y)</b>	
<b>Document Summary, including a “Sourcing” Sentence.</b>	

## Contextualization

*Another skill that is important to grasp for the introduction of your essays, both LEQ and DBQ, is “Contextualization.”*

*Contextualization is when you explain and connect the document(s) to historical events, developments, or processes that are relevant to the time in which the document was written/created.*

*For example, is this occurring in an age of Enlightenment? Revolutions? Centralization? Conflicts? Peace? Unity? Disunity? This is a “broad” idea – not a minute detail. They call this “situating the argument” when we get to essays, because you’re showing you know what’s going on, placing the topic at hand in its broader historical situation.*

**So, now go ahead and read the Seven Pillar Edicts as a group. From what you know about Ashoka, and what you know about the Mauryan Dynasty... connect the dots. Provide 2-3 sentences of context, setting up your analysis of the Seven Pillar Edicts.**

### ASHOKA’S *SEVEN PILLAR EDICTS* c. 237 BCE

<b>Main Ideas/ Key Points of the Seven Pillar Edicts</b>	
<b>Context for the Seven Pillar Edicts</b>	