

Sample: Reading Around a Document

	Response (What you think)	Evidence (Clues from the document)
Author: Report everything you can about the <i>author</i> of the document.	<i>A respected historian</i>	<i>Sounds like the title of a history book Written in the third person Is described as a professor of history at University of California and considered to be a pre-eminent scholar</i>
Audience: Report everything you can about the intended <i>audience</i> for the document.	<i>People interested in understanding the history of HBC in great detail</i>	<i>The title of the book suggests it is devoted exclusively to the HBC</i>
Context: Report everything you can about <i>where</i> and <i>when</i> the document was created.	<i>Written initially in 1957 and reprinted in 1977</i>	<i>Bibliographic information</i>
Type of document: Report on the kind of document it is (diary? personal letter? legal document?).	<i>Secondary historical account; a scholarly text</i>	<i>The title states it covers a period from 1821-1869, but it was published in 1957.</i>
Purpose: Report everything you can about the likely reason for creating the document.	<i>To provide a scholarly account of the events impacting the HBC</i>	<i>Opinions are supported with historical evidence</i>
Credibility: Report everything you can about whether the information in the document is reliable or not.	<i>Seems very reliable; the author is a university professor and is especially known for his work in this area. Offers specific comments supported with evidence</i>	<i>Is called "a pre-eminent scholar" Refers to primary source documents such as Gladstone's remarks and a select committee of Parliament. Written long after the event when an overview of many factors would be known.</i>