The AP Exam will require you to constantly analyze stimulus. Stimulus includes text, diagrams, charts, pictures, artwork etc. To be able to understand these documents you need a STRATEGY. This strategy is HIPPO:

H- HISTORICAL CONTEXT
  - When was the document created? What do you know about the historical events that are being referenced?
  - What is happening during this time PERIOD that gives you insight into the document?
  - Do you get the “Big Picture” that this document falls in?

I- INTENDED AUDIENCE
  - Who was this document prepared for? Why was it created for them?
  - Why does this matter?
  - What insight might it give to you about the document?

P- PURPOSE
  - Why was the document created?
  - What caused the Author to write, draw, paint, make the document?
  - What did the Author want the document to do and does this matter?

P- POINT OF VIEW
  - What do you know about the creator of the document? Does this matter?
  - Does the document take a side or create a specific opinion on a topic?
  - Is the document trying to influence people’s thoughts in a certain way?
  - What does this tell you about the document?

O- ORGANIZE AND USE
  - The most important part!
  - Using the HIPP above, how are you going to use the document to help you make an argument?
  - Is there one of the above that stands out more than others?
  - Once you have analyzed the document using HIPP, “SO WHAT”? What new insights do you now have that help “Open” the documents contents.