Sourcing

- Who wrote this? Who did they think they were in relation to others? Who did others think they were in relation to the author?
- Who read this? What kind of response might the author have anticipated?
- Why was this written?
- What is the author saying? How is s/he saying it?
- What is the text doing?
- Is this a primary or secondary source?
Contextualizing

- What were the conditions on the ground, or what must they have been in order for the author to write this piece? (descriptive assumptions)

- What did the author believe about his/her topic? What must s/he have thought others believed about it? (normative assumptions)

- What else was going on in the world when this text was published?

- What does this text tell us about: 1) what was valued at the time, and 2) how people taught?