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| Name: |  | Date: |  |

## Purpose

This quick skill-building activity is intended to help you understand what is being asked of you when you’re presented with historical prompts, particularly those you’ll encounter in assessment prompts such as document-based questions (DBQs) and long essay questions (LEQs).

## Process

In this activity, you will revisit the process of how to parse a prompt. Remember, parsing a prompt is the process of analyzing a string of words—that is, trying to figure out what something is saying and asking!

Take out the Question Parsing Tool and write down the following AP® World History released exam question at the top of the tool:

*Evaluate the extent to which the experience of the First World War changed relationships between Europeans and colonized peoples.*

Now, follow the tool directions. Be prepared to discuss your answers with the class!.

**Directions:** Follow the steps to parse the prompt you are presented with. Use the key at the bottom to help you with the historical reasoning practice and composition questions.

1. **Prompt:**

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1. Rewrite the prompt in your own words:

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1. **Periodization**: What is the time period you are being asked to consider? Write out the years if you are given something in terms of century (for example, twentieth century = 1900s).

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1. **Location:** What areas of the world are included in this prompt?

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1. **Topic:** What is the main topic being asked about in this prompt?

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1. **Historical reasoning practice:** What historical reasoning practice is this prompt asking you to engage in? Provide justification for why you chose the one you did.

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1. **Composition**: What is the prompt stem asking you to do as part of your response? Remember the prompt stem is usually a verb.

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| **Historical Reasoning Practice** | **Words/Phrases to Look For** |
| **Causation** | Cause, effect, led to, lead to, emergence, resulted, bring about, give rise to, be the cause of, result in, produce, generate, spawn, precipitate, prompt, induce, promote, foster, provoke, trigger |
| **Comparison** | Similarities, differences, compare, contrast, set side-by-side, juxtapose, differentiate, liken, equate |
| **CCOT** | Continuities, changes, continuation, persistence, consistent, over time, two points in time |
| **Prompt Stem Examples** | **What It’s Asking in Simpler Language** |
| **To what extent** | Weigh, evaluate, assess |
| **Evaluate, assess** | How much—needs a quantitative answer/thesis/claim (Note: A quantitative answer is one that includes an amount or a number. For example: a lot, a little) |
| **Analyze, develop** | Describe and explain |
| **Argue, argument** | Make a claim |