

The Three Close Reads Process for Video

In the World History Project, we use the Three Close Reads process for all readings in the course. And, believe it or not, a very similar process can help you with videos! When watching videos to learn something—and not just for fun—it’s important to “read” them, just like articles. And, just like articles, one time through doesn’t always do the trick. While this doesn’t mean that you need to watch the entire video three times, it does mean doing more than just hitting “Play” and hoping you’ll understand the content. We’ll help you use tools like the transcript and viewing questions to help you learn and remember the content of the video.



Here’s how it works:

First “Watch”—Preview and Skimming for Gist

Before you watch, you should skim the transcript first (this will always be linked in the “Before You Watch” part of the lesson). The skim should be very quick and give you the gist (general idea) of what the video is about. You should be looking at the title, thumbnails, pictures, and first few seconds of the video for the gist.

Second Watch—Key Ideas and Understanding Content

Now that you’ve skimmed the video transcript and taken a quick peek at the video, you should preview the questions you will be answering (a good habit to use in reading, too!). This pre-viewing strategy will help you know what to look and listen for as you watch the video. Because some videos move quickly and contain a lot of information, it will help you a lot if you know what to listen for. If you have time, we’d recommend you watch the video twice. The first time just sit back and watch it through without stopping. The second time, pause the video each time you find an answer so you can write the answer down. Keep in mind that when you watch the video, it is a good idea to write down any vocab you read or hear that is unfamiliar to you.

Third Watch—Evaluating and Corroborating

After skimming the video transcript and watching it for key ideas and content, you’ll think about and answer some bigger picture questions that will help reinforce why this video is important to what you are learning, and how it connects to other content you’ve studied.