**Appendix B**

When I approach a source, I think about how the image is connected the chapter thesis and the main point of the section/paragraph. For example, look at the image on page 16. The caption helps start your CONTEXT for the engraving.

In addition to the caption and my own background knowledge, I have built this context from my reading of the textbook. Check out the yellow highlighted sections.

Now, I need to figure out the SIGNIFICANCE of the source. Again, I can use the text to help me. Check out the section highlighted in green.

Remember the THESIS for Chapter 1, “This dramatic accident forever altered the future of both the Old World and the New, and of Africa and Asia as well.” (page 5)

SIGNIFICANCE: Diseases brought by the Europeans killed upwards of 90% of the Native American population. The death of so many Native Americans weakened their societies and allowed Europeans to successfully establish colonies. The depopulation of Native Americans also pushed Europeans to turn to enslaved West Africans as a source of labor.

From the *American Pageant*, Chapter 1, page 15

“Unwittingly, the Europeans also brought other organisms in the dirt on their boots and the dust on their clothes, such as the seeds of Kentucky bluegrass, dandelions, and daisies. Most ominous of all, in their bodies they carried the germs that caused smallpox, yellow fever, and malaria. Indeed Old World diseases would quickly devastate the Native Americans. During the Indians’ millennia of isolation in the Americas, most of the Old World’s killer maladies had disappeared from among them. But generations of freedom from those illnesses had also wiped out protective antibodies. Devoid of natural resistance to Old World sicknesses, Indians died in droves. Within fifty years of the Spanish arrival, the population of the Taino natives in Hispaniola dwindled from some 1 million people to about 200. Enslavement and armed aggression took their toll, but the deadliest killers were microbes, not muskets. The lethal germs spread among the New World peoples with the speed and force of a hurricane, swiftly sweeping far ahead of the human invaders; most of those afflicted never laid eyes on a European. In the centuries after Columbus’s landfall, as many as 90 percent of the Native Americans perished, a demographic catastrophe without parallel in human history. This depopulation was surely not intended by the Spanish, but it was nevertheless so severe that entire cultures and ancient ways of life were extinguished forever. Baffled, enraged, and vengeful, Indian slaves sometimes kneaded tainted blood into their masters’ bread, to little effect. Perhaps it was poetic justice that the Indians unintentionally did take a kind of revenge by infecting the early explorers with syphilis, injecting that lethal sexually transmitted disease for the first time into Europe.

So, the final product might look like this:

A. CONTEXT

This engraving shows a Native American burial service following the efforts of Europeans to colonize the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries. Native Americans died in large numbers from the diseases Europeans brought as part of the Columbian exchange. The impact of the Columbian exchange reverberated throughout the trans-Atlantic world, bringing about changes in Africa as well as Europe and the Americas.

B. SIGNIFICANCE

Over time, the diseases brought by the Europeans killed upwards of 90% of the Native American population. The death of so many Native Americans weakened their societies, making it easier for Europeans to successfully establish colonies. The death of so many Native Americans led to African societies being destabilized as Europeans invested heavily in the West African slave trade as a source of labor.