BEAM/BEAT IN THE DISCIPLINES: DEFINITIONS AND EXAMPLES

1. BACKGROUND SOURCES

A background source is a source, often scholarly, that gives the context information necessary to understand the exhibit source and the problem. The background source is usually information that everyone agrees on.

BACKGROUND SOURCE EXAMPLES
- *In the humanities:* An introductory history textbook; a biography of an author
- *In the sciences:* A literature review published in a peer-reviewed journal
- *In business:* A company history; a history of advertising trends

2. EXHIBIT SOURCES

An exhibit source is any source that you plan to analyze in order to make an argument.

EXHIBIT SOURCE EXAMPLES
- *In the humanities:* A letter by Abraham Lincoln; a poem by Maya Angelou; a sculpture or other work of art
- *In the sciences:* Data collected through experimentation or observation
- *In business:* Profit and loss statement from a company

3. ARGUMENT SOURCES

An argument source is a source, usually scholarly, that makes an argument related to the topic you are discussing that you want to engage with in some way--maybe agree, maybe disagree.

ARGUMENT SOURCE EXAMPLES
- *In the humanities:* A scholarly book review; a paper published in a peer-reviewed journal
- *In the sciences:* A scientific paper published in a peer-reviewed journal
- *In business:* A business analysis

4. THEORY/METHOD SOURCES

A theory or method source is a source, usually scholarly, that explains a particular theoretical framework, or specific methodology, that you plan to use to analyze your exhibit source

THEORY/METHOD SOURCE EXAMPLES
- *In the humanities:* An introduction to color theory; a paper on intersectionality
- *In the sciences:* An explanation of a particular experimental method used
- *In business:* An introduction to trickle-down economics