

Area of Knowledge: History

Knowledge questions: How is history constructed? Why does history change if the past doesn't change?

1. Do Now:

Evaluate the following quote. What does it mean? Do you agree with the ideas presented in it?

"The past is malleable and flexible, changing as our recollection interprets and re-explains what has happened."

-Peter Berger

- History is not 100% fact, history isn't like math, not one right answer, even textbooks are written from a perspective. Ex. Vietnam War perspective has changed over time, even what we know factually. Causes shifts over time.
- Current climate changes how we think about and view history. That will change over time.
- History is to some degree our memory of the past.
 - Memories can change over time, depends on who you are now.
 - As time goes on, history changes as more voices are heard
- Raises the question, what is history? Is it simply the past? Or interpretations?
- Facts and interpretations and who is the person sharing the story.

2. What is history?

How would you define history (as an area of knowledge)?

- "collective memory" of the masses on the past. Collective feelings and interpretations of what we think has happened.
- History can tell stories about what happened but also it can have contrasting opinions about what happened and what it means.

- Narratives we create in order to make sense of previous events in order to keep the past relevant and cohesive so that it can source of knowledge.
- History can be just the events themselves, may be the interpretations as well.
- What we decide are “important” events
- Media has a big impact on what people think is important

How do we construct history? Discuss the process you think we follow in order to create history?

- Reading and viewing primary source documents, connect to historical context, paint a picture of what happened
- We have to decide what information is important to decide what to look at.
- Importance can be determined by how many people are affected by a person or event
- Humans create what become the artifacts for future historians.

3. Read and annotate *Gavrilo Princip: Hero or Villain?*

- Identify *three* important passages from the text that you think illustrate the nature of historical knowledge and how it is constructed.
- You can also identify something around the issues and problems that exist in the field.