

Areas of Knowledge: Art and History

Knowledge questions: What is the purpose of art? Does artwork have a responsibility to be historically accurate?

1. Art and historical accuracy

What story is being told by the first image? What do you think is happening?
When is this picture from? How do you know?

What story is the monument telling? Focus on specific details.

What are the differences between the two? Why do you think the monument's creator included these differences?

2. Revisionist History Podcast

Listen to excerpt from Malcolm Gladwell's *Revisionist History* podcast: "The Foot Soldier of Birmingham." Take note notes below on thoughts you have while listening.

(student notes from discussion)

- It doesn't have to be literally accurate but accurate to a moment. The image became part of history and told a story the monument added upon.
- You can't imply choose images to represent your movement if they aren't accurate. The image has become propagandized. Can't ignore what actually was happening. Changed the narrative to fit our point of view. May have been unavoidable.
- People in the artwork should be accurately represented.
- Should also capture the spirit of the time.
- Story isn't literally there but could be believable. Confirmed what people wanted to believe about history.
- We should consider artist's intention with the photograph. The dog, the two people were cast as "actors" in this moment that fit the artists' narrative.
- The interpretation of the story was based on prior knowledge.
- Art is personal, no responsibility or obligation of what it *has* to be. While it may have implications by being in a public space, more about public's responsibility about what to support or not.
- We can't know the repercussions of the image so it's not okay to use the image for purposes other than telling the truth.
- Difference between art and journalism. Journalism is the whole story.