

Area of Knowledge: History

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

1. Do Now:

Find the three articles we worked with on in this unit:

- Princip and WWI
- The interpretations of the Mexican American War
- Japanese history textbooks

Also find the relevant worksheets from those days.

2. How do we answer a KQ in TOK?

The question we are answering is: Why does history change if the past doesn't change?

Notes from last class

- Why does history change if the past doesn't change?

Examples

- Princip and the start of WWI
- Mexican-American War Origins
- Japanese History textbooks

“Unpacking the question”

Discuss the question

Define and discuss the terms

- What is history?
- What is the past?
- What is the difference?

- What does it mean for these to change?
- What other concepts are relevant here?

Once I have effectively discussed the meaning of the question and terms

Ideas you can discuss in your writing:

- “The past” is the defined by the *actual* events that happened.
- For it to change would mean that the *actual past* and what happened changed.
- Historical perspective plays an important role in how history is written and how the past is interpreted.
- Past and history are not the same thing
- Past is what happened, history is the story told based on what happened.
- History changes because different interpretations are being passed on
- There is not one interpretation of what happened.
- History is always changing because the present is always changing, people have different perspectives.
- “Many of the truths we hold depend on our point of view.”
- History is about why, the past is about what.

Assignment

- Write 700 words in responding to the question.
- Write paragraphs.
- Use the 3 history articles we discussed to give you specific examples of what to write about.
- Discuss relevant Ways of Knowing in your writing. Use them meaningfully.
- You’ll have three class periods to work and then the assignment should be submitted online.