

Quaestio: _____

RECONSTRUCTING THE RECORD

HISTORY IS NOT _____!

- People often use “The Past” and “History” interchangeably, but they are two different things...
- **The Past** = EVERYTHING that ever happened before right now. EVERYWHERE.
- **History** = Writing that attempts to truthfully reconstruct some important fraction of the Past

HISTORY IS _____!

- _____ **Theory**: approach that sees history as the result of the actions of “Great” (usually rich and powerful) Men
- However, the course of events is influenced by many diverse factors and by many different types of men and women up and down the _____
- **OUR JOB**: Study history from many different angles and perspectives to get the _____

HISTORY IS _____!

- Primary sources can be
 - unavailable (true for most of the Past!)
 - _____ (in other words, fakes)
 - inaccurate (wrong on the facts)
 - _____ (presenting only one opinion)
 - selective (only giving _____ of the story)
 - over-emphasis
 - _____ (leaving out)
 - suppression (covering up)
- **OUR JOB**: Always seek multiple authentic sources and recognize _____



HISTORY IS _____!

- Historians themselves can also be also be guilty of all those limitations in selecting, interpreting, and presenting information from the sources

- Even the most honest and well-intentioned scholars can never be entirely _____
- _____ = type of cultural bias, seeing the world only from the perspective of your own culture, or even seeing your culture as _____ and other cultures as _____ (e.g. “Eurocentrism” is ethnocentrism that sees European culture as superior)
- **OUR JOB:** Bias is not always _____ for us as historians! Sometimes, as long as we know it’s there, we can learn more from the author’s bias than the author’s information!

HISTORY IS NOT _____!

- Most of history is uncertain, and the _____ you go, the less certain you get!
- History is not a single unified account (there is no book somewhere called HISTORY where all of the history is written in one place)
- History includes every account of history that _____
- Multiple primary source accounts about the same events often _____
- Historians themselves often disagree about which accounts are more correct
- _____ of new sources can change previous beliefs about history
- **OUR JOB:** Pay attention to new discoveries and new research and constantly _____ what we think we know

YOU MAKE HISTORY!

- As a student of history, you do not simply learn what happened in the past.
- You should not _____ follow what you are told by your textbook, by the Regents, or even by your beloved history teacher
- Your task is to learn how to use the tools of critical historical analysis to come to your own conclusions about the past, thereby making your own “history.”

HISTORY RESPONSIBLY!

- All knowledge must be approached with _____
- We must be ready to criticize _____ as much as or more than others
- We are just as capable of falling victim to our own bias, speculation, selectivity, and error
- We may not be able to eliminate our _____, but we must be aware of them