

The Historical Process

History is the way people interpret factual information about the past.

Evidence is information that leads to a claim, an assertion of something as true, real, or factual.

Fact is information that can be proven true.

Interpretation is an opinion that should be based on evidence.

Bias is a general tendency or leaning in one direction; a partiality toward one view over another.

Tone is an author's attitude toward a subject.

Frame of reference is how a person's point of view is shaped by factors like gender, age, residence, race, socioeconomic status, etc.

Plausibility is apparently trustworthy, reasonable, or believable.

Analytical approach focuses on history as interpretation. A claim is made that is supported by a convincing argument and supporting evidence.

Narrative approach focuses on history as a story.

Reliability is to be trusted.

Primary source is a first person account that is recorded at the time of an event such as someone's diary or journal, a survey or interview, letters, autobiographies, and observation.

Secondary source is material that other people have gathered and interpreted, extended, analyzed, or evaluated, such as newspaper articles, a documentary on television, a website, a science text, and an encyclopedia entry.

Headnote is a brief introduction, summary, comment, or explanation that precedes a document or reading.

Brackets are used to enclose words that were not part of the original primary source.

Ellipsis, a set of dots like this . . . , are used to show some words in the primary source has been left out to shorten the reading or to omit words that don't apply.

Collaboration/Cross checking is the process to compare facts from different sources to see if they agree.

Organization patterns are structures that show the relationship between ideas. Types of organizational patterns include *Chronological*, *Cause and Effect*, *Compare and Contrast*, and *Problem/Solution*.

Peripheral information is text information that is not of central importance.

Arguments are the reasons that support your claim.

Claim/Hypothesis is a statement that clearly introduces an idea or belief that is supported by evidence.

Counterclaim is an argument that negates (goes against) the writer's claim.

Refute means to argue against something.

Support is the specific example(s) from the evidence that uphold the claim.

Synthesize means to examine, closely study, and evaluate how individual text elements work together as a whole by combining the knowledge of one text element to the analysis of an additional element.

Formal writing style is writing that is free of slang, trite, expressions, abbreviations, symbols, email shortcut language, contractions, and the use of the personal pronoun "I." The writer does not speak directly to the reader by using the word *you*. Formal style ensures that readers are able to read and understand what is written.

Heritage is the exaggerated and sometimes fabricated accounts of one's past to create feelings of patriotism and nationalism.