

4.0 Making Assumptions About History

Learning Objective: students will appreciate the role of subjectivity in the construction of historical narratives.

Group Activity #1

Use this handout to brainstorm some common assumptions people have made about the beliefs, values, technologies, etc. of the following time periods and important events.

The Ancient World	
The Dark Ages	
The Renaissance	
The Industrial Revolution	
9/11	
The Wars in Iraq & Afghanistan	

Group Activity #2

The answers we give to the questions posed to us reveal something about our worldview and assumptions. In this activity, students are going to compose answers to a series of history related questions. The class will use the answers as a basis for learning a little more about the nature of history and our own assumptions about the world.

- 1). Is history more of a science or more a form of sophisticated story telling?
- 2). Does organizing time into neat and tidy periods encourage accuracy or inaccuracy when it comes to our understanding of history?
- 3). Is humankind on a path towards progress or are we in decline?