
I wrote in the first paper that history was such an important subject. I still stand by that statement, but this semester has completely taken what I thought that I already knew about history and has broadened my thought process on the subject. It has helped me to better understand what history is and why we should study it now. In this paper I will attempt to convey what I understand as history and why it is important for us to study it, what type of historical approaches I will use when I start to conduct research later on, how I define myself now as a historian, and how and why my views changed about these issues.

History is something that everyone should endeavor to study. History to me is defined as looking back in the past to understand what took place and how it effects the way that we live in today's modern society. History has helped society understand where it gets its many different life values and how each group of people living in this world came to be in the particular spaces that they are in. History should be studied so that we can better understand what our ancestors and forefathers were attempting to build and to try and get a better or more detailed history. If we study history from a non-biased point of view, I feel that we can utterly understand what history is. The present is a direct cause of what happened in the past and what will happen in the future. (Stearns, 1998) I am a direct reflection of my mother and father, who are direct reflections of their parents and so on and so on. If you look at history thru the cause and effect lens, you will see that history is basically the cause while the present and future are the effect.

Before I started this class, I had no idea what historical approaches pertained to. Now that I have taken this class, I feel that I can approach history with a new type of sight and understanding. I have learned the difference between the different types of sources, which will help me look at the subject differently. As I focus more on my ancestral history, I will try my

best to use primary sources, meaning that I want firsthand accounts about the subject that I am researching, such as U.S. Census reports from that time period or from some of my family members that are still alive from that particular period. When I am able, I am going to go back to my grandmother's house and do a deep dive into her different files, pictures, old obituaries, and any other source of information for my research into our family tree. I am also going to visit the local library to see what can be discovered in the archives. Depending upon the time frame of the subject, I may not be able to use primary sources. But I will be able to use other secondary sources.

As a still very new historian, I now see myself as a more aware historian. Aware of the responsibility that I am now going to be held accountable for my accounts of history. Before, I would just go and look for information that would fit the narrative that I wanted to tell. I would not worry about the validity of a source. I would do like some of the people that would take a piece of the story, not the whole story, and run with it, as long as it fit my side of the argument. But now, I understand that a true historian will look at all sides of the subject that they are researching and tell the history of it the proper way. Even when I find something in my research that I do not agree with, as a historian that now knows better, I am bound by the self-honor and integrity that I possess to show an accurate picture of the research that I found. This, in my opinion, would have made my grandmother enormously proud of the family historian that I had become.

My views about history have not changed very much. I still believe that we must look to the past so that we can heal the present and protect our future from those who want to twist history into some type of evil. We must go back and revise and update the papers that were written with prejudice, racism, and racism. The thought of being able to go back thru time,

while riding my bike to my grandmother's house. My grandmother sitting me down to look at old photos while she is going thru all these different boxes, looking for more information that would help me to do a great job at writing our history.

History is a marvelous subject. It gives us the opportunity to find out why things are the way that they are in the world today. Throughout this paper, I have attempted to define what history is and why we as historian should study it. We talked about the different approaches that I will use in future research problems. Since writing my first reflective paper, I have grown so much more as a historian and feel that I will continue to get better as a researcher and historian.

References

Stearns, Peter N. "Why Study History? (1998): AHA." Why Study History? (1998) | AHA, 1998.

[https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/aha-history-and-archives/historical-archives/why-study-history-\(1998\)](https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/aha-history-and-archives/historical-archives/why-study-history-(1998)).