



Who Writes History?

How does history become fact and who decides what the facts are? Explore resources about how history is taught and why certain events or individuals are deemed historically significant.

Conversation Questions

1. Who is responsible for sharing history?
2. How can we broaden school history curriculum to be more inclusive?

Key Definitions (from Merriam-Webster Learner's Dictionary)

- *History* – the study of past events; a written record of important events that have happened since the beginning of something
- *Curriculum* – courses offered by a school, college, etc.

Listen

Popaganda: Who Writes Our History?

<http://bit.ly/2tg3aFk>

Hosted by Sarah Mirk of Bitch Media, this podcast discusses the concept of history as a living organism and features interviews with a comedian, a writer, and a scholar who have produced recent works of history.

Our Fake History, Episode #3 – Was There a Real Labyrinth?

<http://bit.ly/2Kb7u2f>

Explore the ways people think of myths as history and what actual historical facts might be contained within myths. Produced by Sebastian Major and Beth Lorimer, this episode looks at whether the myth of Theseus and the Minotaur is real.

Read

“History Class and the Fictions about Race in America” by Alia Wong in *The Atlantic*

<https://theatlantic.com/2yxh76J>





Wong discusses how altered or superficial histories featured in school textbooks are fundamentally wrong and problematic, particularly in how some equate the African slave trade with immigration.

“On Writing History in the Present Tense: An interview with Writer and Historian Elizabeth Catte” by Kim Kelly in *The Creative Independent*

<http://bit.ly/2KnHEV4>

Elizabeth Catte, author of *What You Are Getting Wrong about Appalachia*, discusses the importance of writing about the present with a deep understanding of the past, and how power dictates the way the past is taught.

***The Skeptic’s Guide to American History* by Mark A. Stoler**

<https://skokielibrary.bibliocommons.com/item/show/2139568133>

Reframe your understanding of U.S. history with this multi-volume audiobook that reviews different perspectives on political, social, economic, and military events.

***Mirrors: Stories of Almost Everyone* by Eduardo H. Galeano**

<https://skokielibrary.bibliocommons.com/item/show/5847430048>

Uruguayan writer Galeano briefly retells creation myths and other contemporary historical events with vignettes that embrace and uplift the narratives of dispossessed and indigenous people.

Explore

Facing History and Ourselves

<https://bit.ly/2tkc3xE>

Facing History is an organization that engages students across a variety of backgrounds to promote a more humane and informed citizenry. The website provides a wide range of materials, including articles, video, and audio clips, sorted into categories that make connections between history and the present.

