

WRITING IN THE DISCIPLINES: HISTORY

THE BASICS

Historians research, analyze, and discuss theories about the past. Historians do more than just report on what happened, they also try to explain the *why* and *how*.

AUDIENCE

Historians write for the general public through books and film, as well as for students and scholars through textbooks and other academic writing.

QUESTIONS HISTORIANS ASK

- "How" and "Why" questions are usually the basis of their papers
- They might consider *What happened?* or *Who was involved?*
- Questions based on personal interest, relevance, and existing discussion regarding the topic

TYPES OF HISTORICAL WRITING

- Critical Essays
- Book Reviews
- Historical Essays
- Research Papers

TYPES OF EVIDENCE

- **Primary:** Pieces of evidence that would have been around at the time of the event
 - Examples: Photos, maps, speeches, diaries, and letters
- **Secondary:** Pieces of evidence that would have been made after the historical event occurred
 - Examples: Books and documentaries written and/or filmed by other scholars



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