

Historical Thinking Skills

Distinct skills that students should practice throughout the year—skills that will help you learn to think and act like historians.

Skill	Description
1. Developments and Processes	<p>A. Identify and explain historical developments and processes.</p> <p>B. Explain a historical concept, development, or process</p>
2. Sourcing and Situation	<p>Analyze sourcing and situation of primary and secondary sources.</p> <p>A. Identify a source’s point of view, purpose, historical situation, and or/audience</p> <p>B. Explain the point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience of a source</p> <p>C. Explain the significance of a source’s point of view, purpose, historical situation, and or/audience, including how these might limit the use(s) of a source</p>
3. Claims and Evidence in Sources	<p>Analyze arguments in primary and secondary sources.</p> <p>A. Identify and describe a claim and/or argument in a text-based or non-text-based source</p> <p>B. Identify the evidence used in a source to support an argument</p> <p>C. Compare the arguments or main ideas of two sources</p> <p>D. Explain how claims or evidence support, modify, or refute a source’s argument</p>
4. Contextualization	<p>Analyze the contexts of historical events, developments, or processes.</p> <p>A. Identify and describe a historical context for a specific historical development or process</p> <p>B. Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context</p>

<p>5. Making Connections</p>	<p>Using historical reasoning processes (comparison, causation, continuity and change), analyze patterns and connections between and among historical developments and processes.</p> <p>A. Identify patterns among or connections etween historical developments and processes</p> <p>B. Explain how a historical development or process relates to another historical development or process</p>
<p>6. Argumentation</p>	<p>Develop an argument.</p> <p>A. Make a historically defensible claim</p> <p>B. Support an argument using specific and relevant evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe specific examples of historically relevant evidence• Explain how specific examples of historically relevant evidence support an argument <p>C. Use historical reasoning to explain relationships among pieces of historical evidence</p> <p>D. Corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument using diverse and alternative evidence in order to develop a complex argument. This argument might:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables• Explain relevant and insightful connections within and across periods• Explain the relative historical significance of a source’s credibility and limitations• Explain how or why a historical claim or argument is or is not effective