

TASK 1 READING ASSIGNMENT

Read “Why Study History?” by Peter Stearns. This article discusses why the study of history is essential to our society, and also how it can benefit you as a person making your way into your adult life.

It may be accessed at: [\(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))-(1998)

If, for any reason, you are unable to access the link, you may simply perform a Google search for the article. Type in “Why Study History by Peter Stearns”, and multiple formats will appear. Be sure to choose one that includes the whole article, and not a review of the article by a third party.

Before you read any scholarly article with questions to follow, start by reading the questions FIRST! It’s always helpful to know what you should be looking for as you read. Each answer should be at least 300 words. This is my first chance to view your writing and your ability to analyze a text so put your best foot forward.

So, here are the questions...

1. What arguments does Mr. Stearns make to support the idea that it is beneficial for a society when its members study history? Please site specific evidence from the text.
2. In what ways does Mr. Stearns show the study of history to be beneficial to the individual, both on a personal level and in whichever career path he or she may choose? Please site specific evidence from the text.

Read slowly. Make sure you understand each paragraph before moving on to the next.

After you finish reading, answer the two questions above and label it “task 1”.

TASK 2 FREE WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Directions: Please compile a written response to the following prompt to the best of your ability. This is some of the first free writing I get so see of yours so do your best and give your response some thought. Your response must be a minimum of 4 paragraphs. Be honest in your response, it will not hurt my feelings if you say you are not the biggest fan of history, however I will work my tail off next year to make it a subject you enjoy going to and being a part of.

Prompt: To what extent (how much) do you enjoy learning about history? What about it do you enjoy? What about it do you dislike? If you have a favorite time to learn about what is it and why does it interest you so much?

Grading:

- This will be considered your first Essay or test grade of the year so take it seriously and do your best.
- If you do not have a minimum of four paragraphs your grade will automatically start at an 80.
- This is a free write so as long as the minimum length is achieved and you are on topic you will receive full credit.

Submitting Work:

- You will submit your work on the first day of school. You have all summer to do this so I will not accept it after the first day of class. If you cannot print out the work for submission that is fine my email address is linnehank@springfieldpublicschools.com , and you can email me your work there.