

Thought for Food: Simple Ingredients for Teaching Writing & History

Part 1: Defining Terms

“WRITING”

- **Skills needed to write an essay**
- **Basic parts of an essay:** Introduction, Background, Argument, Counterargument, Concession, Refutation, Conclusion

“HISTORY”

- **Two types of sources:** Primary, Secondary
- **Dealing with assumptions and bias**

“THINKING WELL”

- **Six mental actions:** (1) Get accurate reliable information, (2) Ask questions, (3) Make connections, (4) Examine all sides of the issue, (5) Think logically, (6) Give reasons for your position
- **Ask good questions about bad things:** (1) What is the wrong thing?, (2) Why did it happen?, (3) How did people get the idea to do this wrong thing?, (4) What happened as a result of this wrong thing?, (5) What can we learn from this and avoid doing, or what actions should we take to prevent it from happening?, (6) Who in this situation was doing the right thing? How can we be more like them?

Part 2: How do Writing and History Help Us Think Well?

WRITING

HISTORY

Part 3: Tips for Teaching Writing and History

TIPS FOR TEACHING ESSAY WRITING

1. Help them develop a clear style of expression => Read well-written books
2. Help them get the “little things” (mechanics, hand-writing, typing) out of the way
3. Make sure they know the writing skills that make up the parts of an essay
4. Require re-writing

TIPS FOR TEACHING HISTORY (American, Western Civilization, World/Comparative)

1. Teach history *according to the student's age and abilities*
 - Youngest: Story, Memorization
 - Middle School: General overview, Order of facts, Geography
 - High School: Ideas, Comparative civilizations
2. Teach history in chronological order:
3. Make a lasting timeline!
4. Do not feel bound to a textbook
5. Have students read/research the topics they are (most) interested in for the era you are studying
6. Require writing
7. Study literature, art, music, and geography of each period as you go along
8. National History Day