

#ret #disorganized #incomplete

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# 1 | history? essay.

## 1.1 | prompt

title: Prompt

**\*\*Origin narratives for the United States\*\***

The telling of American history has become one of the focal points of conflicts over our national culture.

In a 2-3 page, double spaced essay, evaluate how the authors we've read so far approach the telling of American history.

summary: what are the key considerations in constructing an American history narrative. say these with explicit engagement with the texts.

how to frame early years of American colonialism is a better anti-racism a framing on colonialism?

to understand what should be in the narrative, we need to understand the purpose of the narrative? we shouldn't have a narrative? narrative should be ever changing to solve societal problems?

### 1.1.1 | more planning

can't have one simple narrative

narratives: events filtered by framework, turned into a story

value structures, project narratives onto them America good: America ended slavery, we should be the heroes!

vs. America bad: America was built on slavery and sin

#### **the narrativisation process:**

values narrative structure events

filter events on values fit into narrative structure

narrative absorbed into populace changes/creates – perpetuates – populates values

there is no complete narrative – what should the narrative be? one of many.

narratives are true but not complete

narratives do not need to be complete to be true to have truth?

narratives incomplete incomplete truths revealed narrativization process

rough outline:

- narrativisation process
  - values filter events
    - \* distortive!
  - events fit into narrative structure
    - \* distortive!
  - narrative creates values
    - \* creates distorted/incomplete values!

- big point:
  - \* narratives are inherently distorted/incomplete
- narrativisation
  - process,
  - leads to incomplete/distorted narrative
- america good
  - given the 'america good' set of values, the narrative becomes...
    - \* "america is unquestionably good?"
- america bad
  - the flipside
- both have truth
  - we should look to multiple narratives
    - \* embrace the truth in each even when they conflict
- conclusion
  - we have to live with multiple narratives in conflict

thesis: narratives are inherently distorting, and thus we must not operate under a singular narrative

### 1.1.2 |evidencing

- narrativization
  - "i have lived with this book for six years, starting over a dozen times before i settled on a narrative thread" p6 ortiz
    - \* as experienced by natives
    - \* consuisnly or unconsesly have a set narrative
- broader
  - "this would replace my country right or wrong" cowie
  - "Voters are in search of a place of vision for average Americans, a place of idealism in an age of cynicism, a place of unity in a time of fracture and a place where policy can be embedded in something greater than technocracy." cowie
- america bad
  - anti-statis, cowie
  - "Yet when the American left abandons any vision of social patriotism because of the racist ugliness it has come to symbolize, it concedes the American story to the voices of exclusion and avarice." cowie
  - everything in US hist is about land: dunbar, pg 9
  - the hist of the US is a hist of settler colonialism! dunabr, pg 10

- those who seek hist with an upbeat ending will not get it: dunbar, pg 10
- dunbar calls the consensus narrative wrong in it's essence! pg 10
- says that his narrative is acknolaging reality: dunbar pg 10
- "hope for everyone to be speaking the same language and goverened by the same laws": dunbar jefferson 11
- calls the consensus narrative a myth: dunbar, 12
- according to the origin narrative, the united states was born of rebellion against opression, calls this a fallacy! dunbar 20
- calles normal narrative chauvunistic/provincialism: dunbar 21
- dunbar calls american hist v bad: end of 22
- america good
  - etho-state? nationalism? cowie
  - unconsuins manifest destiny: dunbar 10
  - colonizer and colonized had a diolouge: dunbar 13
  - prestigious book with native making carpet with stars and stripes: dunbar 14
  - according to the origin narrative, the united states was born of rebellion against opression: dunbar 20
  - civil war was the second rev which ended slavery: dunbar 20
- ending
  - "As we approach midterm elections, we urgently need to hear these messages in good faith and rise to their challenge."