

HIST 1700 ESSAY 1

“How does the American History course contribute to your general education?”

This history course contributes to my general education by providing me with the necessary information to understand not only the complexity in our republic, but also the means in which it was built and how it operates as a whole. It also challenges our critical thinking which I will discuss towards the end of this essay.

Having this information helps me in standing other concepts easier, for possible use in later classes. If I were to take another history course, I would be more aware of world events that not only affected the United States, but other countries globally as well. I would also be familiarized with periods in history such as the colonial period, the enlightenment, and the world wars. I would also be more in tune with discussions regarding internal politics, geopolitics, and overall global affairs, as now I would be able to use my critical thinking to compare and contrast historical events with current events.

Not only does history help me understand broad concepts and periods in history, but also helps me understand complex questions and dilemmas by looking back at the past, and how these same questions and dilemmas were answered by our predecessors.

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The knowledge of history, –especially American history as we live here– allows us to understand ourselves, our predecessors, and can even aid in making us better citizens. It can also aid in our decision making, as many thousands of people probably made those decisions before us.

By using this critique of the past, we're challenging ourselves to dig deeper, and placing our feet in their shoes allows us to answer and solve complex questions about the world we live in today, and the world we lived in the past. These questions improve our ability to criticize and challenge facts and trends, and this improves our overall sense of critical thinking, thus aiding us as students. I feel especially considering we deal with controversial and complex opinions and facts regarding history, it significantly improves our skill to critically think, as our predecessors did not have the same moralities and views as we do today. Many times we find ourselves thinking upon "how could they do this; it is so inhumane" but to our predecessors it was simply their way of life.