**ANDREW H. ROHN**

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**COMM 202 (2185)**

**1.  What device do you most often use for your favorite program watching or other chosen media? Do you agree that you favor the device that gives you access to the information and programming that most meets your needs?**

I most often use my phone for watching my favorite media. It’s fast, portable, and with my mobile plan I can get internet service practically everywhere. However, when I’m at home I prefer to use my laptop because it’s faster and has a bigger screen for a better viewing experience. I do not believe that the device I use is in any way influenced by the type of programming I want to watch. Both devices allow me to watch the same programming of my choice. The preference comes from whether or not I am at home or on the go.

**2.  How does the program meet your specific needs and goals?  Who else do you know that also seeks out this programming (movie, tv, radio show, game) and do they do so for the same reasons as you?  Why are their uses of this programming similar or different from your own?**

I am an avid lover of history, especially classical history. I enjoy watching historical documentaries and other informational videos in my spare time. For me, history is entertaining because it tells the stories of our ancestors, from which we can take valuable life lessons. It also explains why the world is the way it is today due to the actions of those who came before us.

There are many others besides myself that have a passion for history. While some have a general interest in history, others are more interested in specific eras in history. As I mentioned, I like classical history the most. I enjoy learning about the ancient Romans, Greeks and Egyptians. The scale of the battles and the infusion of mythology make this a very interesting period in human history. I know many people who prefer the medieval era and learning about the various kings and queens of Europe, or the explosion of art and culture during the Renaissance. Different times had different problems and I suppose that’s where the difference in interest comes from.

**3.  What does this program or other media tell you about your place in the world in relationship to how much access you have to things you want in the "real" world?  When you are stressed out, do you turn to this programming more or less?  Why?**

Whenever I watch historical videos I am reminded how fortunate we all are to live in the modern world. We live in a time of exceptional peace and prosperity. We don’t have to worry about constant wars of conquests, barbaric raids, famine, plague, or enslavement. We also take for granted things that even the wealthiest of our ancestors could only dream of. An abundance of food, electricity, plumbing, air conditioning, heating, electronics, automobiles, advanced medication, visual and auditory media, democracy, and the Internet are just some of the things that most people, including the poor, have easy access to today. The more I learn about how difficult life was for people in ancient times, the more I appreciate what I have readily available to me.

**4.  What does this programming tell you about people who are different from you in terms of race, age, sexual orientation, political beliefs, socio-economic status, gender, religion or nationality?  Are they portrayed in a positive or negative light?  What kinds of power do they have?**

One of the main reasons why history is important is that it recounts events from which we can extract important lessons. As the philosopher George Santayana once famously said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Over time, people from all walks of life have struggled with inequality and discrimination. When we read about the horrors of the holocaust in Europe or slavery in the United States, it serves to remind us that these institutions were detrimental to society and that we should never repeat those mistakes.

Moreover, history is full of examples of disenfranchised people who fought for their rights as human beings to live their lives the way they wanted to. The most relevant example to us is the Civil Rights Movement in the United States during the 1960’s, where minorities, disabled people, and members of the LGBT community won greater civil rights. Ultimately, history is still being written but it’s clear that the trend is towards greater equality.