History....?

- History is a conversation between the past and present
- We ask questions (inquire) about the past to better understand and interpret what happened
- People leave artifacts behind
- We ask questions
- Make statements
- Questions reflect the time and circumstances of the historian

To Succeed in a History Class

- Write well
  - Extension of your thoughts
  - WRITE OFTEN to improve it
- Think Historically & Analytically
- Know a Vast Amount of Historical Information

Analytical Thinking (Not Critical)

- Make an assertion (thesis)
  - Be confident
  - Must pass the “Show Me” test (PROVE IT!)
- Defend it with specific, accurate, and relevant information
  - Use your sources and be precise
  - Leave you what is not needed
  - Must have a basis from what you have studied
  - All about the evidence
- Anticipate and DESTROY counterarguments
  - Leave no doubt with your information so you cannot be disproved

Historical Thinking

- Craft historical arguments from evidence
  - Using the data, artifact, information present
- Chronological reasoning
  - Understand how/why events happen over time
- Comparison & Contextualization
  - Over events differ, how do they relate (where and when)?
- Historical Interpretation & Synthesis
  - Interpret sources in historical perspective and combine concepts to draw conclusions

So, why History...?

- History requires patience
  - Place the information together
  - What if it’s wrong? SO WHAT - TOLERATE UNCERTAINTY
- Social studies is about analyzing
  - NOT ABOUT OPINION
  - Conclusion based on evidence provided to you
- Essential skill is writing well
  - Write often
  - Developed by doing