**Why Study History?**

**Develop Your Skills**

1. **Reading**. Specifically, reading from different time periods.
2. **Writing**. Specifically, good writing. How to not just repeat what someone else said, but to analyze information from multiple sources and come up with your own conclusions.
3. **Being able to form your own opinions and effectively argue those opinions with others**. Anyone can say "yes" or "no." Most people can't answer "why."
4. **Research**. In history class, you will research - primary and secondary sources. You will learn how to determine whether a source is reliable or not, as well as how to find sources within sources.
5. **Quantitative analysis**. Yes, history has numbers. We look for patterns - in population, in desertions during war, and in environmental factors, to name a few. These patterns help us find out why things happened. So yes, there are numbers.
6. **Qualitative analysis**. How do we know that the "facts" of history are facts? Could they just be someone's opinion? If so, how do we find the facts?
7. **Taking life with a grain of salt**. When you combine the above skills, you learn that not everything is as it seems. History is written by the victors, so history class will teach you that what the textbook says, and what really happened, could be two drastically different things. Or we may just never know and you have to accept that.

**Other Benefits**

* **History helps us understand other people and other societies**. Society is shaped by what came before. In order to understand how we have become what we are, and why we differ from others, it's important to look to history.
* **History helps us understand current events**.

**History During Your Lifetime**

**What do you think are the TEN MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN HISTORY DURING YOUR LIFETIME?**

**Useful Resource: YEAR by YEAR: 1900-2017**

[**http://www.infoplease.com/yearbyyear.html**](http://www.infoplease.com/yearbyyear.html)

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