Historical Thinking Sentence Starters
To make sure you are utilizing historical thinking skills in your writing, use these sentence starters!

Sentence Starters for Cause-and-Effect Thinking in History
• I believe that one reason for their…was…
• It wasn’t just one cause, though; we need to think about other factors, such as…
• That was a result of…
• Just because they…doesn’t mean that…
• The most likely reason for…was…
• The…led to…, which lead to…
• She was motivated by…
• Each…played a key role. First…
• There were political, social, and economic motives for…
• Even though the textbook says the cause was… I believe…
• If they hadn’t…what would have happened?
• ...had a significant influence on…

Sentence Starters for Interpretation in History
• Those events can teach us about the future. For example…
• His actions, though seeming trivial, changed the course of history because…
• We aren’t much different form those people. For example…
• We can draw several conclusions from our analysis of the documents. In the document…
• The evidence strongly suggests that…
• We believe that this event shows how humans can sometimes…
• One way to interpret this event is… Back then, … had a different meaning.
• She belongs in history books because she…
• This event was important because…
• It really means…because…
• I believe the author used that word because…
• I believe that the author did not include…because…
• For us in modern times, it could mean that…
• If we read between the lines, we might make a guess that…
• What did he really mean when he said…?
• This is similar to our life in that…
• I think that…because…
Sentence Starters for Perspective Taking in History

• If I had been… I would have… because…
• I think he might have felt…
• There are several clues that show us how they might have felt. One is…
• One way to interpret this event is…
• From his perspective, I think he was thinking…
• I already know that this person… To me that means that they probably thought…

Sentence Starters for Sourcing in History

• I know that the author of this document was from… That could mean she…
• Based on the time this was written I believe…
• I know that during the time this document was written… was going on. That would mean that the author…
• Since the author… she might be bias. A quote that would show her bias is… That quote shows bias because…
• The author of this article may have been motivated to…
• Even though the author says… I believe they really wanted to show people…
• I believe this source is believable because…
• Based on what I know about the source I think it may not be believable because…
• The fact that this source is a primary document is important because…

Sentence Starters for Contextualizing in History

• Living back then, this person would have experienced…
• Some things that were different back then were…
• Even though much is different, it is important to remember that… was probably the same.
• Back then people would have been (worried about) or (hoping for)…
• It is important to understand that… happened during… because people at that time would have…

Sentence Starters for Cross-checking in History

• One historical account of this event shows that… However, if we examine other historical accounts you can see that…
• Other pieces of evidence also show that…
• There are conflicting accounts of this event. This is probably because…
• If I wanted more information on this subject, I should probably cross check this account with…
• Even though I notice two historical accounts say the same thing, I still do not think they are reliable sources because…
• If we examine two different accounts we can see that…
• Since these two historical accounts say the (same) or (different) thing…