

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 from 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...