

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS FOR HISTORIANS!

LIKE THE CLASSIC WORD GAME, this exercise asks you to slow down & remember what it means, *to you*, to be a historian. DOING HISTORY can be a deeply engaging, fully embodied experience & profession – but the professional practice of doing history can sometimes leave us feeling distant, closed off, and quite frankly, bored. THIS EXERCISE is designed to help you reconnect to the passionate, brilliant, open minded historian within you, the one that loves their work & is excited to always have the opportunity to translate & steward so much important historical wealth. FILL THIS OUT ON YOUR OWN. SOME PEOPLE take their time, other people fill in the blanks quickly. EITHER WAY, you will find yourself left with a document that can help you think more deeply – more reflexively – about your own experience practicing history.

What does it mean to _____ history?

How can I best _____ the field of

study that I have chosen? How can I be more

effective in _____ the history I am

honored to steward? What was the last thing I

learned that made me feel

while also giving me _____ ?

When was the last time I was able to put myself

so fully in someone else's _____ ,

and really, truly, see the full picture that I could _____ it? How *did* it feel?

What did I feel? Did it give me _____ ? Did it make me _____ ?

I am so fortunate that I am able to get so much _____ out of my work

as a historian. Reflexivity truly is one of the greatest _____ a historian

can have. The more embodied a historian is, the more _____ they can

be, and in turn, the more _____ they can _____ in their

work. What are some of the ways that I can stay engaged and embodied in my

professional work, so that work can always feel like _____ instead

of _____ ? How does doing history make me feel, what senses does

it engage? What does it _____ like? What can it _____ like? How

has the practice of history _____ my own life? What does my work as a

historian bring to my personal _____ , and in turn, how does that

_____ my work as a historian? What do I bring to the

that is important to acknowledge so that the history I tell can always be as, honest,

transparent and _____ as possible?

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like the classic word game, this exercise asks you to slow down & remember what it means, *to you*, to be a historian. doing history can be a deeply engaging, fully embodied experience & profession – but the professional practice of doing history can sometimes leave us feeling distant, closed off, and quite frankly, bored. this exercise is designed to help you reconnect to the passionate, brilliant, open minded historian within you, the one that loves their work & is excited to always have the opportunity to translate & steward so much important historical wealth. this is an example of an exercise that is included in my new workshop, *ENGAGE AND EMBODY: CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH POETRY AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION*.

What does it mean to _____ history?
VERB

How can I best _____ the field of
VERB

study that I have chosen? How can I be more
effective in _____ the history I am
VERB (-ING)

honored to steward? What was the last thing I
learned that made me feel _____
ADJECTIVE

while also giving me _____ ?
NOUN

When was the last time I was able to put myself
so fully in someone else's _____ ,
NOUN

and really, truly, see the full picture that I could _____ it? How *did* it feel?
SENSORY VERB

What did I feel? Did it give me _____ ? Did it make me _____ ?
NOUN ADJECTIVE

I am so fortunate that I am able to get so much _____ out of my work
NOUN

as a historian. Reflexivity truly is one of the greatest _____ a historian
PLURAL NOUN

can have. The more embodied a historian is, the more _____ they can
ADJECTIVE

be, and in turn, the more _____ they can _____ in their
NOUN VERB

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SENSORY VERB SENSORY VERB

has the practice of history _____ my own life? What does my work as a
ADJECTIVE

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NOUN

_____ my work as a historian? What do I bring to the _____
VERB NOUN

that is important to acknowledge so that the history I tell can always be as, honest,
transparent and _____ as possible?
ADJECTIVE

for more information &
to bring the **ENGAGE & EMBODY** workshop to your organization,
please email Ellen at ellen@ellenarnstein.com
or visit ellenarnstein.com

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