

# 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

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NOUN

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PLURAL NOUN

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ADJECTIVE

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SENSORY VERB SENSORY VERB

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ADJECTIVE

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NOUN

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

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transparent and \_\_\_\_\_ as possible?  
ADJECTIVE

for more information &  
to bring the **ENGAGE & EMBODY** workshop to your organization,  
please email Ellen at [ellen@ellenarnstein.com](mailto:ellen@ellenarnstein.com)  
or visit [ellenarnstein.com](http://ellenarnstein.com)

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