

THE 5 W'S OF TEACHING REFLECTION: HISTORY

Have you ever reflected on why you teach history? If not, now is a good time to start. Self-reflection into what it is that we teach can provide us with insight, helping us improve our practice with intention. Take a moment to answer the questions below. Take your time and answer each question as best you can and as honestly as you can. Once finished, consider what these answers mean for your teaching practice and purpose.

1. WHO do you teach? Do you teach White students, Black students, Latinx students, Asian students, Indigenous students, biracial students, or some combination? Do you teach students who identify as LGBTQIA? What are the faiths of your students or are there any atheists among your students? Are your students from a privileged or a humbled background? Are you aware of the demographics of your students?

2. WHAT history do you teach? Meaning, what perspective or lens are you teaching from? Do you teach with a Eurocentric lens or non-Eurocentric lens? Are you teaching with a patriarchal lens or a lens that is gender neutral? Do you teach from a lens of intersectionality or not? Do you understand the meaning of intersectionality?

3. WHERE do you teach history? Where are you teaching? Are you in a rural area, a city or urban area, or a suburb? Where have you chosen to teach/ where do you desire to teach and are you teaching where you chose or desire to be? Where are you in your professional & personal life as you teach history?

4. WHEN do you teach history? Specifically, what are the societal circumstances according to our current time surrounding your teaching of history? What are the current politics? What are the politics and economics of the communities where you teach?

5. WHY do YOU teach history? This is self-explanatory. Why do you teach the subject? Is it to empower young people, particularly those whose histories and experiences are erased from textbooks and mainstream narratives? Do you teach history to maintain and elevate the erasure of those marginalized histories and experiences? Do you teach history because that's the best job you could do, or because you couldn't find anything better, or because you think that it's easy, or because you failed at the career you actually wanted?
