

To achieve this the historian may work on the pattern of a series of questions.¹³ What factors have produced a particular setting? How have the factors been arranged? Are there insignificant and minor details that have aided the growth of the complex? Are there suggestions as to how some factors may have been manipulated or controlled by parties involved? Many more questions might be added but these are a sufficient beginning. The danger of the historian is that he may be afraid to inquire. Lacking in inquiry, insight is an illusive matter never attained.

In this regard curiosity may be the scholar's best friend as well as a necessary companion. The process of detailed inquiry has long been recognized as a key part of scientific search but it is often ignored in the social sciences. It is, however, an indispensable tool in keeping history in the sphere of interest. If it should be thought we are losing our view of the objective nature of history, such is not the case, for insight grows from the actual occurrences and situations. Our aim is to keep history as interesting in development as it is worthwhile in content.

(5) Application

Bringing the events and materials of history to bear on existing situations is a strong item in maintaining historical interest. When this application is made plain it does much to show the relevance of the subject and the historical materials. Loss of relevance is one of the many problems that inhibit keener student participation in the study of any form of history and when the relevance factor is missing, it is largely the fault of the instructor. The leader must make the application, must demonstrate the practical significance. This, of course, suggests that the teacher must be perceptive as to how history applies and what the limitations of such are. We will later note that application is of enormous importance in rendering history meaningful and this application is part of the enrichment that must be brought into play for effective learning.

An almost unseen factor in application is the importance of research. The historian is committed to a continued searching for added facts and materials and for better concepts of the meaning of the same. Research often leads to a rethinking of proposition and a renewal of more precise interpretation. Research carries one to better original materials and these give rise to greater potential for application.

(6) A Note of Caution

As important as is the interest factor, there are some warning notes to accompany it. Without due caution, history may be opened to some abusive practices that may add interest but take from the worthwhile content. While presentation is very important it must serve to implement the material and not to manufacture the same. Among the potential "interest-items" that must be kept in check the following may be mentioned: