

How to Ace High-Stakes Tests
English Language Arts
History

As an editor of an oral history compendium, write an introductory essay about the Amistead mutiny in comparison to the Chase mutiny

KNOWLEDGE STANDARDS: ORAL HISTORY**EVIDENCE IN ORAL HISTORY** alpl

One important part of the evidences of history is oral history. Oral history is when folks with direct knowledge of an event tell this to listeners who remember and/or document what they say, This is why we have depositions in law, in which people take an oath to tell the truth, which is written down and used in court. IT is important because in many cases -- really inmost cases, only the people that witnessed something know what happened and there is no documentation of it at the time. All history before drawing or writing was oral history, after writing, for millennia, only a very few could read and write, so history was brought down orally. Like with any evidence, there are things to watch out for. In the case of oral history, as any of us who tells a story knows, details are forgotten, details are made-up for effect, words are put into mouths for those that might only have thought them. As the classic game of telephone shows, it only takes a few retellings, for a even a phrase to go from a clear view of land to a cloud of cuckoos; police sometimes say that the more witnesses the worse it gets, as everybody saw something they are sure they saw that can be the opposite of someone else., On the other hand, police also say that several people telling of a green streak are more likely to be right than those same people telling of streaks of seven colors... circumstantially... in the aggregate

THE COMMON CORE OVERVIEW (for ELA)

To build a foundation for college and career readiness, students must read [and listen] widely and deeply from among a broad range of high-quality, increasingly challenging literary and informational texts. **Through extensive reading [and listening] of stories, dramas, poems, and myths from diverse cultures and different time periods, students gain literary and cultural knowledge as well as familiarity with various text structures and elements.** By reading texts in history/social studies, science, and other disciplines, students build a foundation of knowledge in these fields that will also give them the background to be better readers in all content areas. Students can only gain this foundation when the curriculum is intentionally and coherently structured to develop rich content knowledge within and across grades. Students also acquire the habits of reading independently and closely, which are essential to their future success. p. 10 ELA standards

ONE REASON FOR A COMMON CORE CURRICULUM IN ALL DISCIPLINES

“Different disciplines call for different types of evidence (e.g., documentary evidence in history, experimental evidence in science...” [showing of compelling attention in art; a chain of circumstance in oral history. alpl

Read the selection:

MASTER BEDTIME TALE: DEEP SIX THE OPALS OR MUTINY

Answer the questions that follow.

STANDARD: GOOD ORAL HISTORY IS GOOD HISTORY
<p>part1:para1 Which of the following would bolster a case that the oral history is inaccurate?</p> <p>A. if, in fact, sailors of the day believed opals would bring good luck B. if, in fact, a mutiny is when sailors ask the captain if they can run the ship, and he cheerfully agrees C. if, in fact, Captain Chase had faced no other mutinies D. if, in fact, no evidence was available about Captain Chase’s other mutinies</p>
<p>part1:para1 Which of the following scientific facts bolsters the case for this oral history’s essential accuracy?</p> <p>A. when sails are not held taut, the power in the wind cannot push against them to make the ship move forward B. an object with holes in it and some part of its interior unfilled when dropped into water will become heavier and more likely to sink C. in the 1870’s the richest deposits of opals located was in Australia D. all of the above</p>
<p>part1:para1 Which of the following historical facts bolster the case for this oral history’s essential accuracy?</p> <p>A. if order is restored, mutinies were punished harshly so that their incidence would be deterred B. Captain Chase’s crews included sailors who were the descendants of Fletcher Christian, the real mutineer described in Mutiny on the Bounty C. Captain Chase was known as both an excellent captain and a very harsh taskmaster D. all of the above</p>
<p><i>Please answer the question, below, in no more than three succinct, full sentences.</i> What would one want to see in an oral history to suggest strongly that it is accurate?</p>

STANDARD: GOOD ORAL HISTORY IS GOOD HISTORY

Compose a coherent [interesting] essay properly using textual evidence in support.

No one was there but the Captain, his men and his wife. However, for instance, the New Bedford Whaling Museum and the family both have a lot of logs (records always made of any journey), documents and texts from and about Captain Chase and his whaling voyages. In another instance, opals and their mining, value, and myths have thousands of references that support this story. If this was your research project, how would you organize it? Who would you like to have working with you? Apart from the Chase and opals' leads, where else would you look to find out more about this story?

STANDARD: GOOD ORAL HISTORY IS GOOD HISTORY

Compose a coherent [interesting] essay properly using textual evidence in support.

Men and women captured in Africa and brought to America to be slaves took over the ship Amistead knowing their was almost no hope of success (see *x). Although the mutiny ultimately failed with many dying, grievously wounded and inhumanly punished, the story of this great moment within many hundreds of years of this slave trade was covered in the press as well as passed down as oral history from the few survivors and from those who learned the news from the incredibly strong oral communication network, including from the few who were allowed to read.

If you were the editor of an oral history compendium, what would your introductory essay say about the Amistead mutiny in comparison the the Chase mutiny? What is similar and what is different? What would you suggest that interested readers think about in this regard?