**Historian's Reasoning Devices**

*Historians use these terms to help make sense of the past. You will use these thinking skills throughout the next 24 weeks.*

**Significance Matrix:** *Why some parts of history are considered more important than others and reasons why event is taught in class.*

1. Change over time- i.e. Detroit was like this in 1960 and today it is like……

2. Continuity over time/consistent over time- i.e. China maintained civilizations through several dynastic cycles due to…….

3. Turning Point- i.e. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor it marked a turning point for the United States because…….

4. Signals- i.e. The Compromise of 1850 and the Fugitive Slave Act signaled what was to come which was the…….

5. Cause/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was/is due to- i.e. The corruption and political crisis within the Catholic Church in the 15th century caused Martin Luther to………

6. Effects/Consequences of historical event- i.e. 9.11.01 had the following effects on the American people:

**Forces of History:** *These are the variables that change our personal and collective human narrative.*

1. Political movements- i.e. The Tea Party emerged within the Republican party due to…….

2. Social movements- i.e. The Women’s Rights Movement in the 1970s

3. Foreign Affairs- i.e. Europe became embroiled in World War I and this caused America to……

4. Science/Technology/Innovation- i.e. When Guttenberg invented the printing press it changed the world by………

5. Economic Changes- i.e. During the Great Depression, President Roosevelt combated the problem by…….

6. Cultural movements- i.e. There are people in Quebec who want their province to separate themselves from Canada and they attempt to achieve this by…….

7. Intellectual movements- i.e. During the Enlightenment many in Europe began to question authority by asking……….

**Historical variables that must be evaluated when learning history:** *There are multiple lenses that you look through when viewing a historical event.*

1. Context of the times

2. Power- Who wields it and why they do?

3. Tensions

4. Conflict- origins and basis of it.

5. Consensus- Were the majority of the people behind a historical decision?

6. Tolerance/Intolerance- Roots of them both

7. Critical mass- At what point do we see collective changes and/or cultural pluralism within a society?

**Assignment for today:**

You may have noticed I haven’t conducted any formal activities for us to get to know one another. Reason being is that there is something called the Hawthorne Effect, where people behave differently when being observed by others. It is my hope that an individual assignment would bring honesty a group activity wouldn’t have. I would like you to write a paper about you. I would like you to tell me your history, bearing in mind the historical reasoning devices (HRD) you just learned. I would really appreciate if you named a couple of these HRDs in your paper. I promise to keep these anonymous and like William Shakespeare said, “there is history in all men’s lives”. What is yours?