

## Understanding History Coding Rubric

Response Type	Examples	Code
<p>Q: Please briefly describe and explain, in your own words, what historians do. In other words, how do historians study their subject? Be as detailed as possible in the space provided. Give specific examples of historians' work and methods, if possible.</p>		
Questions	Observes that historians ask complex questions about the past	Q (+)
Sources	Observes that historians use multiple primary sources	S (+)
Perspectives	Observes that historians use sources from different perspectives or interests	P (+)
Analysis	Observes that historians analyze primary sources Observes that historians contextualize primary sources	A (+)
Interpretation/Narrative	Observes that historians formulate interpretations of the past and/or <i>construct</i> narratives	I (+)
Discussing/Arguing	Observes that historians engage in discussion and argument with other historians Observes that historians build upon the research of other scholars	D (+)
Public History/ Application	Observes that historians reflect on significance of the past for understanding the present Observes that historians educate the public through various means (writing, teaching, museums, etc.)	PH (+)
Specific Questions	Refers to specific historical questions	SQ (+)
Specific Sources	Refers to specific historical sources	SS (+)
Specific Historians	Refers to specific historians or works of scholarship	SH (+)
Vague Reference	Makes vague/general reference to historical research or writing that doesn't fit one of the above categories.	1/2 (+)
Over-Simplifying	Characterizes the study of history as a simple act of description States or implies that historians search for a single definitive account of the past	OS (-)

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Scoring: Each student's responses was scored using the criteria above. For each student's response, I recorded the number of incidents of each of the stated response types. (If a particular phrase could fall into more than one category, it will be counted only once.) Incidents of OS (marked with a "-") will be deducted from the total score as noted.

Sample tally:

Student	Q	S	P	A	I	D	PH	SQ	SS	SH	OS (-)	TOTAL
#001	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	-1	6

Note: This rubric is a revised version of the original rubric that I used to code data that I collected in spring 2012. Based on those earlier responses, I added the references to contextualization, narrative, public history, and application, as well as the "Vague Reference" category. The original prompt had two sections, which sometimes led to duplication in the responses (although I was careful to count each distinct idea only once). The revised prompt has only one section/question, in order to cut down on redundant comments.