

## Think: like a historian.

Based on presentation at ICOT 13 by Mark Sheehan: Victoria University					
Determine the significance of a historical account	What I read in a historical account is a fixed and permanent record of what happened.  I accept what I read in historical accounts as accurate, neutral and objective.	What I read in a historical account is simply an opinion about what happened in the past.  Different people hold different opinions.	Opinions from primary sources can provide more accurate evidence than opinions from secondary sources.  I am not sure why some primary accounts are seen as being more reliable than others.	Historical accounts are seen as being more reliable than others based on criteria such as the durability, perspective, profundity and quantity of the people involved	The significance of a historical event changes over time (it is not fixed) and it depends on individuals and/or community perspectives.
Question prompts to move thinking to the next level of complexity.	Why are there different versions of interpretations of the past?	Are there better ways of thinking about approaching the past than others?	How do we know if historical evidence is reliable?	Are some historical events more important than others?	How might we see the significance of this historical event in the future?
Effective Strategies [insert strategies suggested by students and teachers]	Introduce examples showing the interpretive nature of historical explanations.	Introduce disciplinary criteria (primary and secondary sources) to judge the relative merits of historical narratives.	Introduce strategies for determining reliability and corroboration e.g. durability, perspective, profundity and quantity of the people involved	Introduce examples showing that historical significance changes over time and with individual and or community perspective.	