



Does History Repeat Itself?

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History
Grades 9-12



Introduction

There are many who believe that history repeats itself through societal cycles or trends. In this writing prompt, students will work with peers and conduct research to determine if history does repeat itself or if there are just coincidences.

Learning Objectives

- Write arguments with sufficient evidence to support a claim. ([CCSS.W.11-12.1](#))
- Conduct research to answer a question. ([CCSS.W.11-12.7](#))

Materials Needed

- Access to technology (research)
- Paper/Electronic Tablet/Laptop (for composing a writing piece)

Procedure

1. Introduce this topic by playing these videos for the students.
 - [History Repeating Itself: Pandemics](#)
 - [How History Repeats Itself: TedX Talk](#)
2. Have the students work with a peer or small group to discuss their thoughts regarding the videos.

Writing Prompt: There are several repeating trends that have been documented in history. Many think that these are simply examples of coincidence. There are others who believe that these are cyclical and can be predicted. Does history predictably repeat itself or is it simply coincidence? Be sure to use research that supports your views on this topic. You must compose a persuasive/argumentative essay and cite at least five credible sources.

Evaluation

Use a rubric of your choice to evaluate the argumentative essays. Here are some sample rubrics:

- [Example 1](#)
- [Example 2](#)
- [Example 3](#)