

Historians analyze events in order to gain a deeper understanding of the context in which the event happened as well as balancing different perspectives on the same event. One of your first assignments for the semester is to analyze a historical event in your own life. Choose an event that has been significant in shaping who you are today, for example the birth of a sibling, graduation from elementary school, a vacation, a wedding, a death, a job, etc. As the historian it will be your job to gather the facts and present a complete picture of the event.

Questions to consider answering:

What was the event?

Where and when did the event occur?

Who was present?

What happened?

Why was the event held?

Describe the event in as much detail as possible.

If you are able, interview others in order to gain insight into their experience.

How did this event affect who you are?

If someone were to only learn of this event that you experienced, how might they describe your character?

These questions are a guideline for you to think about describing this event. Be sure to give as much background information and well as details during the event in order for someone who has never met you to fully understand the impact it has had upon you.