

Historical Thinking Skills Workshop with Local History

Learn how to craft a historical argument with primary sources!

What: A tutorial in historical skills that will enhance analytical thinking and essay writing.

When: Mon-Thurs, June 10th - 28th 2024, 9:00-12:00 (excluding June 19th)

Where: Renaissance School | 418 East Jefferson St, Charlottesville 22902

Who: Rising 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades; rising college freshmen

How Much: \$850, (\$800 if paid in full by 5/1/24)

This course is designed to teach students how to gain the skills of historical analysis. Students will learn to evaluate information, analyze multiple perspectives, understand motivations, identify historical patterns, and gain familiarity with using archival sources, while also learning about some interesting parts of Charlottesville's history!

Week 1: What did Charlottesville look like in the 1920s?

We will look at how Charlottesville has physically developed since the 1920s. Students will practice map skills, take a field trip to the Albemarle-Charlottesville Historical Society, study the idea of silences in the archives, and be able to make a historical argument about how, why, and for whom development occurred.

Week 2: When the circus came to town!

Students will study the Bruce Greater Shows which was headquartered in Albemarle County during the 1920s. Looking at the world of circuses, amusement parks, and minstrelsy, students will practice compiling multiple sources to create an argument as they learn how to put small, local stories in context with larger, national ones.

Week 3: When Charlottesville had a streetcar line

We will look at the creation of the Fry's Spring neighborhood, including the Wonderland amusement park and the Fry's Spring Beach Club. Students will learn to annotate, study photographs, practice map skills, and gain a deeper understanding of the idea of contingency and complexity as we look at transportation development in the city.

Detailed feedback and editing will be given on all assignments; there will be some reading and writing homework. This course is taught by Sally Duncan. Ms. Duncan has a B.A. in American Studies, an M.A. in American Religions, and a graduate certificate in American Studies, all from the University of Virginia. She has taught various history classes as well as the Independent Study and Senior Thesis classes at Renaissance School.

Registration for the Historical Thinking Skills with Local History summer workshop at Renaissance School is open. Class size is limited to 8 students and spots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so register early to ensure your place. A minimum enrollment of 3 students is required for the class to proceed. To sign up, please use [this Google Form](#), visit RenaissanceSchool.org/summer, or call 434-984-1952 and ask for our Registrar. For more information please email the instructor at sduncan@renaissanceschool.org.