



**Critical Thinking Question: “How, and why, is history taught differently to young children?”**

Paul Revere’s ride was immortalized by Longfellow’s titular poem, but as you have learned, it is far from the true story of what happened on that April night. *Why do parents and teachers lie or exaggerate when they teach history to elementary school students?* In a **3 paragraph** essay, compare and contrast the way history is presented between grades K-6 and middle/high school. Follow this format when writing your essay. On the dotted lines, write notes/examples/thoughts as you prepare to write.

**Paragraph 1=** Describe how history, and historical information, is taught to little kids. Use 2-3 of the following different sources as examples to prove your point.

-Longfellow’s poem (p. 302 of your textbook)

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-Andy Griffith’s speech on the Andy Griffith show

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-your personal memories of elementary school history lessons (ex: famous moments in American history, Indians/Thanksgiving, medieval times, etc)

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**Paragraph 2=** Describe how the focus of history lessons change in middle school. Use 2-3 of the following different sources as examples to prove your point.

-Paul Revere’s Virtual Ride

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-American History: Fact or Fiction Videos

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-your memories of middle school history lessons that presented a different version than what you knew as a kid (ex: infamous moments in American history, Native Americans/Colonist Interactions, medieval warfare, slavery, etc)

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**Paragraph 3=** Editorial: What are the pros/cons to each style of teaching, and which would you use if you were a teacher? In the final paragraph, discuss each of the following topics.

-The advantage and disadvantage of the way history is taught in elementary school

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-The advantage and disadvantage of the way history is taught to you now

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-If I was teaching history, I would...

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