Introduction to Historical Evidence in World History

***Writing 2: Evidence****- I can use a variety of types of evidence to support my main point*

One of assessed historical skills is the ability to select and apply evidence to support a claim. Historical evidence is a specific, relevant and accurate **fact** from a reliable source. To be used effectively it must be explained by the writer to show how it supports the main idea/claim the writer is trying to support.

Students of World History sometimes struggle to differentiate facts from opinions. While opinions of experts can be useful in supporting the analysis of a writer, they should not be used as evidence.

Let’s practice differentiating between fact and opinion. Below are quotes from episode 4 of Season 3 on Parts Unknown that we just watched on Mexico. Highlight when Bourdain is presenting evidence and when he is sharing an opinion.

“Mexico is a country where everyday people fight to live”

“80,000 Mexicans have died in the last 7 years in Narco violence”

“In Mexico, there is no middle class. You are either poor or you are really, really rich”

“The minimum wage here is 50-60 pesos (5 dollars)....not an hour, a day”

“Any great old culture where there is poverty, there is something like this…[migas]”

“The Sinaloa cartel is considered the most powerful”

“The cartels are responsible for importing roughly three quarters of all narcotics to America”

“Corruption is the worst problem in Mexico”

“90 journalists have been killed or disappeared over the last 7 years”

“This mole sauce uses 35 different types of chili peppers and takes more than 2 weeks to make”

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| --- | --- |
| Facts | Opinions |
|  |  |

In order to meet this standard, students must be able to select one quality piece of evidence and explain how it supports the main idea. To exceed the standard, they must provide secondary evidence that further develops the idea (not simply repeat the first example).

Now it is time to practice. Using evidence from the above sorting exercise (or from your SPICE notes), finish the below starter. Try to effectively apply a fact (or two) to support your assertion.

The story of modern Mexico is one of …….