

### Pre-Class History Assessment

*Please answer the questions below in **pencil** on the purple scan sheet. Please put your name on the sheets. Your name will be used to assign a number to your pre-test and post-test; your name and your answers will be kept confidential. Your instructor will only receive the tabulated results for the entire class, correlated by the randomly assigned number.*

*Do not worry if you have difficulty with any of the items. We are conducting a study of the way that college students learn history, not measuring your knowledge. Your thoughtful response to the following questions will help us teach history better in the future.*

- 1) How many college history classes have you previously taken?
  - a) 0
  - b) 1
  - c) 2
  - d) 3 or more
  
- 2) What is your year in college?
  - a) Freshman
  - b) Sophomore
  - c) Junior
  - d) Senior
  
- 3) What is your major? (If undecided, leave blank.)
  - a) History
  - b) Humanities (English, Languages, Arts, etc.)
  - c) Business, SPEA, Education, or other Professional Program
  - d) Natural Science or Math
  - e) Political Science, Economics, or other Social Sciences
  
- 4) When you have two historical sources that conflict, how do you use them in a paper?
  - a) I follow the one that makes the most sense because it is more likely to be right
  - b) I include information from each one to make sure I'm not missing anything
  - c) I figure out why the sources conflict and include that in my paper
  - d) I select the information from each that matches the historical context
  - e) I decide which one is right and use that one in my paper
  
- 5) How do you analyze a first-hand account of a historical event?
  - a) Focus primarily on the facts contained in the document.
  - b) Ask questions such as who created it, when, and why

- c) Decide whether it provides a true account of what happens
  - d) Stick to what the document tells you
  - e) Gather all the written sources you can find
- 6) Faced with diametrically opposed opinions of two individuals in the same historical period, my task is to:
- a) Pay more attention to the one that is closer to the course topics
  - b) Judge which position is correct
  - c) Concentrate on the ways that the two positions are really the same
  - d) Just present the conflict as it is
  - e) Understand why each individual might have thought in his/her way
- 7) When you are asked to identify an author's argument in a history essay or book you:
- a) Describe what the piece of writing is about
  - b) Determine what position the author is advocating
  - c) Identify the sources the author used
  - d) Summarize the contents of the writing
  - e) All of the above
- 8) What influence does the past have upon what happens in the present?  
---Write your answer on the **back** of your scantron in **INK**.