

*Are we all historians? Who makes history... the historians or everybody else? Why do historians change their minds about the past? Carl Becker attempts to explain the process of **writing and revision** in the essay that follows this assignment. For this assignment you are responsible for **three tasks** over the course of the summer.*

Task 1: Read and Annotate

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- Underline the most important idea of each paragraph
- Restate/rephrase IYOW (in your own words) the idea/topic of each paragraph in right margin
- Put exclamation points for each point that you think is important
- Write questions you have in the left margin (1 per section)
- Title each of the three sections as soon as you finish
- Finally, number each paragraph (do this last)

Task 2: Short answer questions

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Section I:

1. How can there be “two histories”?
2. Who is Mr. Everyman?

Section II:

3. Becker explains the utility of history in this section. What is it? (paragraph 11)
4. Becker states that Mr. Everyman is not always exact in his recollections of the past. Is this acceptable or inexcusable? Choose one of the three options in the question and explain your answer with respect to Becker’s essay.

Section III:

5. Describe the problem that Becker sees with “scientific historians”. (p. 232-233)
6. He states, “After fifty years we can clearly see that it was not history which spoke through Fustel, but Fustel who spoke through history.” Explain what Becker means by this statement.

Task 3: Artifact Activity and Personal Response

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Artifact Activity

Becker’s “Mr. Everyman” finds an **artifact** from his Personal Record Office **and it brings to life a series of historical events** for him. Find such an artifact from your “Personal Record Office” (this could be a receipt, ticket stub, assignment from last school year – anything that conjures up a string of memories). Describe, in sufficient detail, the series of historical events the artifact helps you remember. This should be an extended diary-like entry of 1-2 written pages that includes the date, 3-5 memories/connections. If uncertain, use Becker’s Mr. Everyman’s story as an example (pp. 224-225). When finished, physically attach your artifact to the diary entry. Print/copy your description (so that you have two identical copies) and double check to see that it is dated.

Personal Response

Becker closes out the essay by discussing how and why historians revise history. He states on page 236 by stating that his “view of history” will be supplanted by succeeding generations. Think about how your view of your personal history has changed. **Using evidence from Becker’s article and your experiences**, explain why historians constantly change history. (150 – 300 words)

Assignment Rubric

<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Overall expectations	Missing  Three  Descriptors	Missing  Two  Descriptors	Missing  One  Descriptor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted on first day of school</li> <li>Submitted in pocketed folder</li> <li>Includes name, class, date</li> <li>If written—legible/if typed—properly formatted</li> </ol>
Task 1: Annotation	Missing  Three  Descriptors	Missing  Two  Descriptors	Missing  One  Descriptor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Important idea of each paragraph underlined</li> <li>Idea is rephrased in <u>right</u> margin</li> <li>Personal interaction: exclamation points for other important points; at least one question per section in <u>left</u> margin</li> <li>Formatted correctly: title for each section; paragraphs numbered</li> </ol>
Task 2: Short answer questions	Missing  Three  Descriptors	Missing  Two  Descriptors	Missing  One  Descriptor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each question is answered</li> <li>All answers show evidence of thorough reading</li> <li>Answers demonstrate understanding of historical context where appropriate</li> <li>Appropriate language used</li> </ol>
Task 3: Artifact Activity	Missing  Three  Descriptors	Missing  Two  Descriptors	Missing  One  Descriptor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diary entry is appropriate in length (1-2 pages)</li> <li>3-5 memories/connections are discussed</li> <li>Artifact is attached to original entry</li> <li>Includes date</li> </ol>
Task 3: Personal Response	Missing  Three  Descriptors	Missing  Two  Descriptors	Missing  One  Descriptor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Question/prompt is answered</li> <li>Uses evidence from the text (Becker’s essay)</li> <li>Uses evidence from personal experience</li> <li>150-300 words (2/3 page or more)</li> </ol>

A: 20-19

B: 18-17

C: 16-15

D: 14-13

F: 12-0