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**Re: waste of time?**by [Brian Ricker](#) - Sunday, 30 January 2000, 11:37 AM

We watched a video clip in class where the historian speaking said that Washington was faking his humility about being chosen commander in chief of the continental army. The clip talked about how he always showed up in his military uniform and always had a military bearing clearly showing he wanted the position but as soon as he was given it he began to say he wasn't worthy. It even said that he was faking humility in his letters to his wife where he talked about not being worthy of being made general. Since I am not allowed to say that almost all generalizations are wrong, then we can use this example to conclude that the other founding fathers, and well virtually everyone else, was lying when writing letters or essays or whatever historical documents we retain. Even if they weren't lying we have to consider point of view of the person and point of view of the person who does the interpretation of the documentation. My conclusion from this information is that the historic record is skewed and in some places its skewed to the point that the truth is unknown.

Furthermore, as the guy from the audio clip said, history is all about the struggle for power. History is also written by the victors. Because it's the victors who write history, it is further skewed. As for the text books being wrong, wasn't it you, Joe, who said that the text books leave stuff out? I know I never learned some of the facts in high school or middle school that I did in your class. Add to that the way this textbook left out the crucial part of the second amendment, I think I can prove that text books are, if not inaccurate and untrustworthy, at least incomplete. (Which goes back to what the guy in the audio clip said, it is not the students fault that they were taught wrong in class. Nor was it the parent's fault, in most cases, as supported by your graph, the parents didn't know better either.)

I will admit that my comment about being unable to trust the teachers is wrong, although students must constantly filter the knowledge given to us by the teacher through our knowledge of the teacher's point of view and personal biases. You have, Joe, done a good job in pointing out your biases every time they could flavor what you were teaching us.

On a final note, if, as you put it, "A community college student calling someone an idiot is hard to listen to" then what are we doing having a discussion? If I can't, because I am a lowly community college student, call someone an idiot then that is saying I can't express an opinion. (And I am not saying that I supported my claim that he was an idiot well enough either, I understand that no one can call someone an idiot without evidence. I have a feeling though that even if I had supported this statement you still would have called me on it). If I can't express an opinion then why are we doing this online forum?

"I've made it a point to never waste my student's time. Perhaps you'd like to rephrase?" Nope, I still think this was a waste of time.

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