

What is good history?

- Accurate
- Researched
- Edited
- Clearly written or otherwise expressed
- Inclusive – portraying diversity and complexity
- Good Sources – avoid relying on hearsay and myth
- Acknowledge doubt
- Balanced and fair view
- Identifies different historical periods or eras
- Presents different points of view
- Avoids judging past actions by the standards of the present
- Acknowledges sources - attribution

6 principles of effective interpretation

1. Make a personal connection with, relevant to intended audience
2. Provide interesting and varied experiences
3. Be clear and organised
4. Be based on a theme
5. Give visitors choices and encourage them to get involved
6. Demonstrate understanding of and respect for audience

Useful book

Designing Interpretive Signs: Principles in Practice by G. Moscardo, R. Ballantyne and K. Hughes (Editor Sam H Ham, Applied Communication Series) (Golden, Colorado: Fulcrum Publishing, 2007)